

HALT THE WAR-MAKERS!

Unite On May Day Against The Imperialists!

MAY DAY — 1946



May Day Manifesto Of National Committee, Socialist Workers Party Of United States

May Day 1946 marks the 60th anniversary of this imperishable international working class holiday. The true revolutionary spirit of this day, stifled by capitalist repression and desecrated by the Stalinists, Social Democrats and official trade-union leaders, during the imperialist war, can now again express itself. For we celebrate this May Day amidst a powerful resurgence of world-wide struggle against capitalist exploitation and rule.

Here in the United States, the stronghold of world capitalism, the organized industrial workers have met the Big Business onslaught against their living standards with a mighty series of militant strike actions.

Source Of Struggle

On the other side of the Atlantic, the masses of war-shattered Europe are desperately seeking a release from the terrible tortures of capitalist barbarism. Despite all setbacks, illusions, betrayals and repressions, the radicalized workers and peasants are seeking the road to the conquest of power in order to clear away the rotting and ruined capitalist economies and build anew on firm socialist foundations.

The entire colonial world seethes with revolutionary ferment. Heroic and prolonged armed uprisings for independence are being fought out in Indonesia and Indo-China. Tremendous strikes, mass demonstrations, and large-scale mutinies in the Indian Navy and armed forces testify to the mounting strength of the liberation movements within the British Empire. The peoples of Puerto Rico and the Philippines are insistently demanding complete freedom from Wall Street domination. Never have the colonial peoples been more fiercely determined to cast off the chains of imperialist slavery.

All these diverse struggles have a common source in the revulsion and protest of the toiling masses against the terrible consequences of World War II. The second imperialist slaughter in a generation has reduced vast areas

of Europe and Asia to heaps of smoking rubble. It has killed 50 million combatants and maimed many millions more. It has left hundreds of millions prey to disease, famine, destitution and blackest despair. It has wiped out hundreds of cities, centers of industry, trade, culture. It has pauperized entire countries and continents. The whole of humanity agonizes as the precious life blood of civilization is drained through the countless wounds inflicted by this most devastating of wars.

Who has benefited from this six-year orgy of destruction, these mountains of corpses? Not the peoples who on both sides of the battlefronts paid so costly a price in blood, toil, tears and lives. The capitalist classes in the victor countries alone profited. And those who gained the most were the bankers and industrialists of the United States who raked in tens of billions of dollars and emerged from the war as masters of the world.

To win support for their war, the spokesmen of the Allied powers promised that victory would bring democracy, freedom, security and an end to reaction and war. Events have exposed these glittering promises as cynical lies.

Europe Is Prostrate

Look at prostrate Europe! In complete disregard of the will and welfare of its inhabitants, the new masters have divided the continent into two separate and conflicting spheres of economic, military and diplomatic influence. The Anglo-American imperialists have taken over Western Europe as their special province, ruling through subservient governments dominated by bankers, industrialists, landlords, monarchists and militarists obedient to their commands. Hand in hand with the Vatican, Washington and London are today the strongest supports of the tottering regime of dictator Franco.

Through Red Army occupation and puppet regimes

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House Demolishes OPA Control; Price-Gougers Get Green Light

By Art Preis

Wielding inflationary amendments like sledge-hammers, the House of Representatives in a frenzied twelve-hour session on April 17 smashed almost every bone in the skeleton of the Price Control Act before voting 355 to 42 on April 18 to extend the measure for just nine months after June 30.

Previous periodic extensions of the Act, passed originally in early 1942, had already stripped it down to bare bone. When the howling Congressmen concluded their orgy of amendments last week, about all that was left to the Act was its name.

OPA AIDS PROFITEERS

During the hearings preceding the House actions, Office of Price Administration and Economic Stabilization officials had pleaded for a one year extension of the Price Control Act without any further crippling amendments. They had pointed out that even under the past four-year operations of the OPA, corporation profits had swelled to the greatest volume in all history.

Moreover, the OPA itself has been more than compliant to-

ward the price-gouging demands of Big Business. It was largely ineffective in halting wartime inflation, the extent of which was concealed by lying government "statistics."

Since V-J Day, the OPA and Economic Stabilization Board have permitted big price increases all along the line and have completely removed price ceilings from thousands of commodities. Just last week, OPA hiked price ceilings to manufacturers of work clothing from 12 to 15 per cent.

"REASONABLE PROFITS"

Nevertheless, the Big Business-dominated House, its inflationary appetite merely whetted by these OPA price concessions, proceeded to wreak havoc on the few remaining legal price re-

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IN THE NEWS

Passed By Mistake

After a House orgy of amending the OPA Extension Act, during which almost any amendment to emasculate price control was promptly adopted, Representative Koppelman of Connecticut rose in disgust to offer an amendment reading: "We express our sympathy to the American people." It carried by a majority in a voice vote. However, when the Congressmen realized what they had previously adopted, they voted it down by a standing vote, 142 to 52.

Still Royal Open Shop

"LONDON, April 15 (AP)—An official of the National Union of Domestic Workers denied today a report published in Reynolds News that Buckingham Palace servants were enrolling in trade unions."

Cut Out Of The Will

"GENEVA, Apr. 13 (AP)—The specter of its last futile gesture in 1939, the expulsion of the Soviet Union from membership, haunted the League of Nations (just before its formal demise) today as delegates sought to dodge a resolution that would give Russia a share of League assets." All the USSR finally received was an expression of friendship.

Books To Burn

Veteran-students are being denied the right to purchase 3,000,000 new standard text-books owned by the Army because a clause in the Army's contract with the publishers forbids resale on civilian markets.

Mine Strikers Fight To Halt Vile Conditions

By Evelyn Atwood

Some 400,000 soft coal miners are going into the fourth week of their strike for far-reaching social demands, involving improved conditions of safety, health and welfare. As yet there has been no evidence of retreat on these vital issues, which the smug operators termed "trivia" after the mine union leaders broke off negotiations two weeks ago.

Representatives of the AFL United Mine Workers, in their negotiations on March 27 in Washington, D. C. with the soft coal barons, presented documented facts and figures about these "trifles," revealing the abominable conditions prevailing in all the bituminous coal mines.

FACTS SUPPORT UMW

These irrefutable facts completely support the UMW contention that only through a Union Health and Welfare Fund can the operators' crimes against the mine workers and their families be eliminated.

The evidence of the union representatives showed that the coal operators have been raising huge sums of money from pay-roll deductions for so-called health and welfare purposes, but they refuse even to disclose how much they collect or how they disburse these funds. In one case alone, Bethlehem Steel was forced to admit that a surplus of almost five million dollars, out of a miners' pool for health and welfare, remained in the corporation's hands to invest as it alone saw fit.

These "disappearing rebates" are simply robberies of the miners, and were uncovered over and over again in the course of the UMW investigation.

Shocking abuses and misuses of funds under the company-doctor and hospitalization systems in some 800 bituminous coal mines were also disclosed. In the "unholy alliance" which exists

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FOURTH INTERNATIONALISTS HOLD WORLD CONFERENCE

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

Ban Lifted On 'La Verite', French Trotskyist Paper

PARIS, March 23—Minister of Information Gaston Deferre last week signed papers authorizing full legal rights of publication for *La Verite*, long-banned weekly organ of the Parti Communiste Internationaliste, French section of the Fourth International.

La Verite was the first paper to be published in the underground struggle against Nazi occupation. Government lifting of the ban followed a long and successful international protest campaign against this suppression of the labor press.

In reporting this victory in its fight for legalization, the editors of *La Verite* announce plans for its publication in a larger format and with an increased circulation in preparation for the coming national election campaigns in France.

SLAIN FERGUSON BROTHER IS EXONERATED BY ARMY

By William S. Farrell

(Special to The Militant)

NEW YORK, Apr. 18—Pfc. Charles Ferguson, 27-year-old Negro veteran and one of two brothers murdered on February 5 in Freeport, L. I., by a Jim-Crow cop, on April 15 was completely cleared by

an army investigation board of a charge of "misconduct."

Charles and three other brothers, returning from a family reunion, had protested the refusal of a white restaurant proprietor at the bus terminal to serve them coffee. After their departure, the proprietor called a cop, Joseph Romeika, who trailed the unarmed brothers, lined them up against a wall at the point of a gun and cold-bloodedly shot to death Charles and Alonzo, seriously wounded Ships Cook 3/c Joseph and jailed Richard, 3rd Army Combat veteran.

In exonerating Charles, the Adjutant-General's Office declared: "Death held to have occurred in line of duty and not

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BRUSSELS, April 22—An International Conference of the Fourth International took place early in April in Belgium with representatives from the English, French, German, Belgian, Irish, Dutch, Swiss, Spanish, Canadian and Palestine sections, and from several other countries of the Western Hemisphere and the colonies.

This Conference is the fourth since the foundation of the Fourth International in September 1938 and the first since the end of the hostilities. The Conference met for three days and discussed: (a) the re-

port on the activities of the European Secretariat of the Fourth International, and (b) a political report on the international situation and the tasks of the Fourth International.

The Conference elected a new International Executive Committee and a new International Secretariat, and addressed to the workers, the exploited and colonial peoples of the entire world.

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Big Brass Seek Whitewash For Lichfield Atrocities

The second of the Lichfield courts-martial, resumed after a six-day recess in London last week, continued to follow the same pattern as the first. That is:

1. An enlisted man was being tried for brutalities against inmates of the army's stockade at the 10th Reinforcement Depot in England.

2. Voluminous evidence was introduced, after witnesses had been promised they would be protected against persecution, to show that prisoners of the stockade had been beaten unmercifully on the slightest pretext and that the stockade was in fact run along the lines of a Nazi concentration camp.

3. The evidence also demonstrated conclusively that these crimes had been committed at

the direction of high officers. (A junior officer last week repeated the charge that the Depot's notorious commander, Col. Kilian, had set only one limitation on handling of the prisoners: "Just don't break too many bones.")

4. There were additional signs that the top layers of the officer caste in Europe were actively intervening in an effort to clear their own skirts:

Counsel for the defense had charged a colonel on the staff of Major General John T. Lewis

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Workers! Halt The War-Makers!

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no less subservient to its dictates, the Kremlin dominates Eastern Europe.

Germany, the industrial backbone of Europe, has been gutted and dismembered by the Allies. After suffering twelve years of Hitler's dictatorship, the German working class, pined down by Allied bayonets, is deprived of its means of life and labor. Today, above all, the workers of the world must hold out the hand of fraternity and solidarity to the doubly-tortured and oppressed workers of Germany.

There is not a single really independent country in all Europe. On penalty of national extinction or economic strangulation each is forced to become a vassal of one or the other of the great world powers and submit to its sway.

Not one of the colonial peoples, including those previously under the yoke of the defeated powers, has been given the freedom promised in the Atlantic Charter. The "Big Three" bandits are bitterly disputing the disposition of vanquished Italy's possessions in Africa and the Mediterranean. The United States and England join with the weakened French and Dutch imperialists in attempting to quell the colonial revolts in their Asiatic domains. At the same time each connives to snatch these prizes for itself at the first favorable opportunity. American imperialism lays claim to the Japanese-mandated islands, Okinawa and half a hundred other naval and air bases.

Korea which was promised independence at the Cairo conference provides the clearest case of "Big Three" hypocrisy. Now the Korean people have two masters in place of one. Their homeland has been slashed in two by the American and Russian occupation armies.

"The Four Freedoms" today sound like ghastly mockery. "Freedom From Want"? One billion people — one-half the earth's inhabitants — face famine. Meanwhile, employing food as a weapon to aid reaction, the Anglo-American rulers carefully calculate the precise amount required to keep their puppet regimes in power and club the famine-stricken peoples into submission.

"Freedom From Fear"? Royalist gangsters terrorize Greece under British-American protection. English and American guns, tanks, and airplanes fire upon the Indian and Indo-Chinese peoples. U. S. occupation troops brandish their bayonets in 56 foreign countries and islands. Wherever the Kremlin penetrates, Stalin's secret police and murder machinery are set into operation.

There Is No Peace

The most deceitful of all the lies spread by ruling class propaganda was the avowal that the crushing of Germany and Japan would insure true and lasting peace. But V-J Day did not bring peace. There has been no peace for the colonies where savage warfare and naked violence are being inflicted on the fighters for freedom there. Neither in the conqueror nor the conquered countries has there been peace between the classes but a sharpening of the attacks by the rich upon the poor.

Nor has there been harmony among the Allied powers. So deep are the antagonisms that the "Big Three" have not yet been able to agree upon the first of the peace-treaties. It is openly acknowledged that the partners of yesterday are preparing for tomorrow's war against each other.

Wall Street and its government at Washington is the most aggressive and powerful force working toward and preparing for the next world conflict. The lead in a new armaments race is being taken by the imperialist United States. This is apparent in the General Staff plans to maintain the greatest air fleet, a navy surpassing the strength of all other nations combined, and a massive standing army. American militarism aims to acquire undisputed supremacy in scientific mass butchery from rocket bombs to bacteriological warfare.

The superiority of U. S. military might is assured by its present monopoly of the atom bomb. The development of atomic energy opens up grandiose vistas for human society. It holds out the promise of eliminating poverty and disease and raising the living standards of all peoples to undreamed-of heights. The drudgery and servitude of inhuman toil can be abolished. Leisure, comfort, cultural advancement can be put within reach of every man, woman and child on earth.

But under monopoly capitalism this wonderful discovery of science is being perverted to the purposes of death and destruction. The military caste is determined to maintain its stranglehold on atomic energy. They are stockpiling atom bombs at the reported rate of 1,500 a year. They are spending millions daily to manufacture bombs many times more destructive than the two dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. They hold these not only as a threat but as the key weapon to unloose when Wall Street again gives the signal for war.

The foreign policy of the United States is dictated by the imperialist interests and program of the ruling capitalist class. American Big Business aims to make Wall Street the center of world tribute and Washington the headquarters of world power. To secure its mastery over the world American imperialism demands the mightiest of military machines, armies of occupation in Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and naval and air bases encircling the globe.

To advance its predatory plans, Wall Street intends to back up the most reactionary forces, from assorted monarchies to Franco, Chiang-Kai-shek and Emperor Hirohito. These rotten rulers are being upheld and subsidized by Washington to hold down the insurgent masses and suppress the colonial peoples fighting for their freedom.

War Plans Against USSR

The war preparations of U. S. imperialism are directed first and foremost against the Soviet Union. Stalin has rendered valuable services to Anglo-American imperialism in strangling and sidetracking the revolutionary movements of the masses. But the extension of the Kremlin's influence in Europe and Asia combined with the irreconcilable antagonism between world imperialism and Soviet nationalized economy has already disrupted the fiction of "Big Three unity" and generated serious conflicts between the US and the USSR.

In the past two months all the propaganda agencies at Wall Street's disposal have begun to beat the drums for war against the Soviet Union. The UNO, which was supposed to preserve peace and prevent war, has become the principal instrument of Anglo-American diplomacy in stirring up public sentiment against the USSR.

Under cover of this war-mongering campaign, Big Business is pushing a militarist program designed to regiment and Prussianize the American people. In his Army Day speech in Chicago on April 6, President Truman demanded extension of the draft and universal military training. Just a few months after the most colossal slaughter in history ended, he warned that "on short notice each man must be ready to take his place and go forward—not

at the end of a few months, or a few days, but immediately."

Truman's message makes it plain that Wall Street is setting the stage for World War III. Such an atomic war, scientists have warned, can wipe out civilization and exterminate most of the human race. But the criminal capitalist rulers who plunged us into World Wars I and II will not shrink from unleashing World War III, no matter how horrible the consequences. These blood-soaked profiteers do not care how many perish, so long as their thievish privileges are thereby preserved.

The American people, like all others, deeply desire peace and dread the prospect of another world war. But Wall Street's drive toward war will not be halted unless the people muster their full powers.

A mighty mass movement of protest against capitalist militarism and the war plans of Big Business must be formed around these fighting slogans:

Take the war-making powers out of the hands of Wall Street's Congress!

Let the people decide for themselves the question of peace or war!

Against capitalist militarism! No extension of the draft! No permanent peacetime conscription! Against capitalist-controlled military training!

Abolish all officer caste privileges! Full democratic rights to all men in the armed forces!

There is a working class alternative to capitalist militarism!

Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions.

The GI's abroad have raised their voices in mighty demonstrations to be brought back home at once. They do not want to be used as tools for tyrannizing over other peoples. Support the demand of the workers in uniform.

Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!

The struggle against war is inseparable from the struggle for the overthrow of decaying capitalism which breeds war. War is inevitable so long as imperialist rivalries and capitalist appetites for profits endure. It is essential for every worker to grasp this truth. There is no other way to prevent World War III except by conducting an uncompromising and successful fight to abolish capitalist power and establish socialism. Capitalism must die if the peoples of this earth are to live.

The fight against the evils of capitalism is a world-encompassing struggle. The workers in every land confront a common enemy in monopoly capitalism headed by American Big Business. Every action of the masses in other countries directed against capitalist rule and imperialist enslavement serves to undermine the power of the Morgans, duPonts and Rockefellers here at home.

Support of the anti-capitalist struggles of the European and colonial masses is therefore an integral part of the anti-war struggle of the American people. The united front of the world working class is the only force capable of frustrating the criminal conspiracies of the Anglo-American imperialist warmakers.

Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the European and Colonial masses!

For the right of self-determination of all Nations!

On all the continents, in Europe and Asia, Africa and South America, our Trotskyist co-thinkers are teaching the workers the need for such joint action in the revolutionary struggle against the imperialist war danger. Braving adverse conditions, persecution and calumny, they are grouping the advanced workers in every important country around the program of the Fourth International. The Trotskyist parties summon the workers to organize their forces, wrench the power from the capitalist cliques, and take their destiny into their own hands. This is the only road to salvation for the world working class!

Real Defense Of USSR

Through an anti-Soviet war the Anglo-American imperialists dream of smashing the nationalized economy of the USSR and turning Russia into a colony for capitalist exploitation. They hope to succeed where Hitler failed.

Stalin has committed boundless crimes against the Soviet peoples, against the neighboring countries occupied by the Red Armies and against the world working class. These abominations have greatly facilitated imperialist mobilization of world public opinion against the USSR and have helped distract attention from capitalism's misdeeds. The strangling of revolutions by police methods, the plundering of their resources, the imposition of forced labor and other acts of brutal violence have alienated neighboring peoples from the USSR and strengthened the hand of capitalist reaction. At every turn Stalin and his bureaucratic gang reveal themselves as the greatest internal enemies of the working class and the vital interests of the Soviet Union.

To save the remaining conquests of the glorious October 1917 Revolution, above all the nationalized means of production, it is imperative to conduct relentless political struggle against Stalinism and all its agencies and thus prepare the revolutionary overthrow of the bestial Kremlin oligarchy, the restoration of Soviet democracy and the revolutionary program of its founders, Lenin and Trotsky.

As Leon Trotsky, co-leader with Lenin of the Russian Revolution, tirelessly explained: "Only the world revolution can save the USSR for socialism. But the world revolution carries with it the inescapable blotting out of the Kremlin oligarchy."

At the same time, it is the duty of every class-conscious worker to defend the USSR against the threats and the planned onslaught of the Anglo-American imperialists upon the Soviet Union. The Trotskyists have been and remain unconditional defenders of the Soviet Union against imperialist attack. This defense can be conducted in only one way, that is, in the spirit of revolutionary socialist internationalism.

II.

The American workers confront, in the capitalist class of the United States, the most self-confident, arrogant and avaricious band of marauders history has ever known. The ruling 60 Richest Families which own and control the factories, mines, railroads and banks, are drunk with power. Like the Roman conquerors of antiquity and the British imperialists it has today displaced as world master, this victory-flushed plutocracy dreams of converting the earth into one vast slave empire from which it expects to extract unlimited wealth.

In this scheme of world conquest and dominion the

American workers are assigned the role of obedient drudges who may be conceded an occasional small handout in reward for their submissiveness. Wall Street's program of world domination will bring neither peace, well-being nor security to the American people. On the contrary, in order to realize its aims of imperialist aggrandizement, Big Business is increasingly impelled to attack the liberties and living standards of the toiling masses.

During the war the American capitalist class and their government showed how reactionary, ruthless and deceitful they could be toward the working class, how cynical and contemptuous they were of the democratic rights of the people, how thoroughly they protected and promoted their predatory interests. The right to strike was virtually outlawed. Workers were frozen to their jobs at frozen wages while the cost of living continued to rise. A staggering weight of taxes was saddled on those least able to pay.

Meanwhile the corporations raked in the record total of 52-billions in war-profits. They were given billions more in government-built plants and equipment. The military caste, a barb of reaction, strengthened its hold upon the nation. Capitalist-fostered Jim-Crow and anti-Semitism designed to divide and weaken the working class, marched hand in hand with assaults upon organized labor.

Wall St. Brutality At Home

Wall Street intends to continue under Truman the same brutal and reactionary policies it pursued under Roosevelt during the war. No sooner had military hostilities ceased than Big Business launched a ferocious offensive against organized labor. This was answered by labor with a strike wave of unprecedented proportions.

Big Business seeks to drive down the living standards of the workers, to shackle labor, to undermine and, if possible, to crush the unions and return to the heyday of the open shop. The employers cunningly utilize the pressure and prestige of the capitalist government and its agencies—local and federal alike—to coerce the workers, obstruct their struggles, and whittle down their demands.

To combat the union-busting and wage-slashing offensive of the corporations, the workers need a program of militant struggle, of independent class action.

For the independence of the trade unions from the government and the corporations!

The unions must be rid of all domination or interference by the capitalist government and its agencies so that they can free themselves for all-out struggle against the employers.

A systematic drive is on to restrict and curb labor's right to strike. In Congress, laws are being prepared to destroy labor's right to strike and picket. At the same time, the corporations are pressuring for contractual agreements providing "company security," that is, the right of the employers to victimize union militants for so-called "unauthorized" strikes.

Get the labor representatives off the employer-dominated government wage-fixing and arbitration boards!

No reliance on fact-finding boards or government arbitration to win labor's demands!

Against company security clauses!

No restriction on the right to strike!

Big Business and its political agents are plotting to unload the whole burden of war costs and capitalist anarchy upon the American people through soaring prices and heavy taxes. The wage increases wrested by labor on the picket lines from the corporations are rapidly being eaten away by further increases in the cost of living. The greedy capitalists see in the present scarcities of goods the chance to make more record profits at the expense of the consuming masses. The National Association of Manufacturers and other Big Business interests are determined to sweep away all remaining restrictions upon their profiteering operations. At their bidding, Congress is scuttling the OPA and the last feeble restraints upon the price-gougers.

The Roosevelt-Truman administration, seconded by the liberals, the labor bureaucrats and the Stalinists, put forward the OPA as the only effective way to curb inflation and fight higher prices. But the four-year record of the OPA conclusively demonstrates that this capitalist-manipulated agency in a capitalist-dominated government cannot be relied upon to keep prices in check. In fact, the OPA has granted one price increase after another to the profiteers and removed price ceilings on thousands of essential items.

Defense Against Inflation

To protect their living standards against continually rising prices, the working people can depend only upon their own class forces and organizations.

The most direct and effective defense against price inflation is through the struggle for higher wages and a greater share in the wealth produced. Labor's purchasing power must be kept abreast of mounting prices.

Labor must fight for: a rising scale of wages which is automatically adjusted to every rise in living costs!

To control prices, the unions should take the lead in organizing mass consumer committees, composed of union members, housewives, working farmers and small shopkeepers. Unlike the profit-protecting OPA setup, these democratic consumer committees, guided by the needs of the masses, could proceed to enforce price-ceilings, ferret out black marketeers, and expose Big Business profiteering.

Through carry-back provisions the government gives billions in tax-rebates which aid the corporations in lessening the demands of labor. Congress repealed the excess profits tax upon corporation profits but continues back-breaking taxes upon the workers. New sales and wage taxes which fall most heavily on the working class are being projected in New York City, Toledo and elsewhere.

Tax the rich, not the poor! No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!

Big Business' hopes of using the returning soldiers against the union movement suffered a stiff setback in the recent strike wave. Veterans were in the forefront of labor's ranks as militant fighters for higher wages and better conditions. These links of solidarity must be forged into an unbreakable alliance between the veterans and organized labor.

For organization of the war veterans by the trade unions!

Capitalism fears the growing unity of Negro and white workers. Wall Street is determined to stamp out the more militant demands of the Negro people for full social, political and economic equality. Fascist-minded hirelings

of the ruling class, like Gerald L. K. Smith, are busy fomenting race hatred. The responsibility for upholding the Jim-Crow system and encouraging and shielding the practitioners of race hatred and violence rests squarely upon the official government agencies.

Against The Race-Haters!

The lynching of the FEPC Bill gave the go-ahead signal to the most savage race haters all over the country. The Fontana arson-murders outrage in California, the Jim-Crow slaying of the two Ferguson brothers in Freeport, New York, the atrocities committed against the Negro community in Columbia, Tennessee, and the revival of the Ku Klux Klan show how bold and brazen the ultra-reactionary white supremacists are becoming.

Organized labor must firmly oppose these attempts of capitalist reaction to pit one section of the workers against another by stirring up racial prejudices and conflicts.

Full equality for Negroes and national minorities! Down with Jim Crow! Down with anti-Semitism.

Recent events have opened the eyes of more and more workers to the true character of the administration and Congress as faithful servants of monopoly capitalism. The key posts in the government are staffed by Southern Bourbons like Byrnes and Vinson, corporation lawyers and other representatives of the great financial interests. The industrial and financial lords of Wall Street can always count upon Washington to obey their commands.

During the labor upsurge Truman intervened on behalf of the bosses by government strikebreaking plant "seizures" against striking oil, packinghouse and tugboat workers. Through his "fact-finding" bodies, Truman whittled down the unions' wage demands. His demand for laws to limit the right to strike, maintain "cooling off" periods and establish semi-compulsory arbitration, gave Congressional labor-haters their cue for such vicious anti-union measures as the Case Bill.

Truman's administration has granted the corporations, repeal of excess profits taxes, continued subsidies and now extortionate price increases. At the same time Truman proposes to clamp a new wage-freezing formula upon the workers.

Not a single progressive measure has been enacted by the present government. The FEPC was filibustered to death by leading Democrats. The Full Employment Bill was disemboweled. The proposal to raise unemployment compensation to \$25 a week was knifed. Emergency housing legislation for homeless veterans has been blocked. The bill for a 65-cent an hour minimum wage has been so amended as to insure its discard.

And this administration and Congress which has shown itself to be so hostile toward labor and so subservient to Big Business was elected in 1944 with the all-out support of the bulk of the union leaders and the CIO-PAC!

Build A Labor Party!

This scandalous and intolerable situation must be stopped. The unions have learned how to fight and how to win against the capitalists on the industrial arena. But labor remains helpless in the political field because it is tied by its own leaders to the boss-controlled Democratic and Republican parties of Wall Street.

If the gains wrested from the corporations are not to be lost at Washington, American labor must move forward by breaking all its bonds with the political deputies of Wall Street. American workers need a labor party to put their own representatives in office in the 1946 elections and to fight the political rule of the corporations exercised through the capitalist two-party system.

This is the most urgent immediate task facing American labor.

Build an independent labor party!

III.

May Day originated in the United States in 1886 in the strike struggles for the eight-hour day. In the great strike struggles of 1946 American labor has shown how far it has advanced in the intervening sixty years in numbers, strength and organization. The unions, now embracing over 14 million members, have triumphantly demonstrated their mighty power in action.

Working class unity and morale have never been higher. From these strike struggles the ranks of labor are emerging more conscious and steeled. In the fires of combat the workers have been tempered and hardened. But already the significant gains made in the strike wave are being threatened and undermined. They are in danger of being completely swept away unless labor prepares for ever greater battles ahead.

The lessons of the war and the postwar strike struggles are serving to radicalize the American workers, to stimulate their political thinking and expand their social outlook. Many are beginning to realize how grossly not only the capitalist politicians but their own leaders—the trade union bureaucrats and Stalinists—have deceived and misled them. They are looking for a party and a program of action which can lead them in the coming struggles against Big Business. Some of the best union militants, of the boldest fighters for racial equality have already joined the Socialist Workers Party. Our party always told the truth to the workers and fought shoulder to shoulder with them against their enemies.

Only One Road

Our party is a revolutionary party. We tell the working class that there is only one way to achieve peace, plenty and security. That is the road of Marx and Engels, of Lenin and Trotsky. The workers, the poor farmers, and all the exploited and oppressed must replace the power of the bankers and monopolists with their own power. They must expropriate the capitalists in order to establish their own democratic control over economic life and create the basis for a new, planned, socialist society.

The Socialist Workers Party calls upon all who want to work for the grandiose aim of liberating humanity from capitalist slavery to join its ranks. Together with the revolutionary workers and peasants throughout the world, we shall free humanity from the war-makers, the profiteers and parasites and go forward to the socialist future of peace and plenty for all.

For The International Solidarity of the toiling masses!

For A Workers and Farmers Government!

For a Socialist America in a Socialist World.

National Committee, Socialist Workers Party

May 1, 1946

Kremlin's Policy Inside Germany

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

LONDON, April 1—An important article attempting an analysis of developments in occupied Germany, with special emphasis on the Soviet zone, appeared in the most serious of the bourgeois weekly journals in England, *The Economist* of March 23, 1946. Below we present the most significant excerpts from it, which provide significant answers to important questions. For example, is a definite social policy being pursued in the Soviet zone? To this the *Economist* gives the following reply:

"Talks with Soviet Military Governors do not give the impression that they are acting on the basis of any clear-cut social policy. Like their British colleagues, they seem to be guided empirically rather than by doctrine or ideology . . .

"The Soviet Military Government can hardly be said to have before itself the task of creating socialism in Eastern Germany. But public control and planning as well as public ownership are most essential elements in its outlook. Private enterprise is so unfamiliar as to appear almost unmanageable. In a quite empirical manner the Soviet military administration favors a development toward socialism; but it does so by the sheer fact of its own existence."

WORKERS SEIZE FACTORIES

The following analysis is given of what happened when the Red Army marched in:

"Here, as elsewhere, the collapse of Nazism was followed by demonstrations of a socially revolutionary spirit. Workers seized factories and settled accounts with Nazi or Naziized management. The same sort of thing happened in the Ruhr. But in the West the occupying armies took it upon themselves to re-establish 'law and order'."

"The Russian army refrained from doing so; thus, the quasi-revolutionary changes, which took place immediately after the collapse of the Third Reich, have not been undone. On the contrary, they have been largely perpetuated . . .

"What has in a way interfered with it has been the revolutionary myth that preceded the Red Army, the certainty of whose arrival encouraged radical elements among the working classes to revolutionary acts. The Red Army, because of its background and traditions, would have been very ill-fitted to counter-act those acts in the way the Americans did in the Ruhr, even if the Soviet government had wished to use it for any such purpose."

Most significant of all has been the formation of factory councils through the initiative of the masses themselves. Here is the

Economist's view of the existing state of affairs:

"More important and decisive than the problem of ownership prevailing in industry. It is here where the difference between East and West is most striking. Throughout the Russian zone the Betriebsräte (Works Councils) play a dominant part in industry. They have the last say on all matters where employment and denazification are involved, though they have had no right to demand wage increases or to conduct strikes . . .

WORKS COUNCILS

"The directors work in close contact with the Works Councils and probably also under direct pressure from them. The whole scheme shows a fair amount of resemblance to the 'factory democracy' of the early years of the Russian revolution. This is perhaps not quite to the liking of the Soviet administrators themselves, since it is precisely the system that has been suppressed in Russia."

"Similarly, the gospel of equal wages and salaries that has been exorcised as heresy from Russia is gaining some converts in Russian-occupied Germany. The salary of a director, for example, cannot exceed 1,000 marks. Yet under the Stakhanov system of incentive wages and salaries such limitations are quite inconceivable inside Russia. This example shows that the Soviet military administration cannot always impose its policies upon Eastern Germany. Sometimes it is the German social atmosphere that imposes policy upon the Soviet military administration."

TRANSITIONAL PHASE

"This social system in industry, however, is improvised and provisional. The control vested in the workers itself marks a transitional phase, and so far the Soviet administration has been careful not to commit itself on what is to happen next. In theory a return to private ownership is still just as possible as a final nationalization of industry. Legally and politically, the door is being kept open for either course."

"Hence the present touch of ambiguity and vagueness. Which course will eventually be taken depends primarily upon the interplay of international forces and whether separate zones are to be permanently maintained. But there can be no doubt that the longer such divisions last the quicker will be the process of Sovietization."

"F.I." Subscription Campaign Gets Off To Splendid Start

The campaign for 500 new six-month subscriptions to *Fourth International*, the theoretical magazine of American Trotskyism which got under way three weeks ago, is bringing gratifying results. From cities all over the country, 168 new subscriptions have already been turned in. This is a splendid start that promises a successful conclusion to the two-month campaign.

Readers of *The Militant*, among them workers from Oregon, New York and Pennsylvania have used the *Fourth International* subscription coupon which was printed in a recent issue of the paper, to send in their dollar for a six-month subscription.

Fourth International local campaign directors have used many excellent methods for selling subscriptions. In Minneapolis Campaign Director L. Lynn is sending out letters with sample copies of *Fourth International* to *Militant* subscribers. This is followed up a week later with personal visits. Los Angeles is integrating the campaign for *Fourth International* with

Rule Of U. S. Imperialism Brings Starvation To People Of Germany

Austrian Trotskyist Groups Send Report To Outside World

(Special to The Militant)

PARIS, April—After many years of isolation and almost complete absence of communications with the outside world, contact has been established with the Karl Liebknecht Bund, Austrian Section of the Fourth International.

Between the years 1934 to 1943, five illegal Trotskyist groups functioned in Vienna. Each published an illegal paper. The main activity of the groups was to organize Marxist study circles with advanced elements, the publication and distribution of leaflets and pamphlets, and work in co-operation with various resistance groups.

In 1943 a Gestapo agent succeeded in entering the organization and exposed the leading elements.

LEADERS SHOT

On October 12, 1943, a trial was held in Vienna. Seven Trotskyists were accused, charged with issuing an illegal publication, "Gegen den Strom" (IV International). Two of them, the leaders, Joseph Jakubowicz, 28 years old, and Franz Kascher, 34 years old, were sentenced to death and shot. The five others received a sentence of 19 years' imprisonment.

Jakubowicz and Kascher, both voiced their defiance of the Nazi judges to the end. Their defense was an exposition of their struggle for communism. They refused all recourse to appeals for clemency. The names of these two martyrs joined the distinguished roll of our heroic dead, victims of Nazi barbarism. The Fourth International dips its banner in salute to these valiant Austrian fighters in its cause.

As a result of the discovery and arrest of the leading comrades, organized activity was made virtually impossible. On the eve of the "liberation" and with the return of leading comrades from concentration camps and exile, a reorganization took place. The five separate groups which existed during the Nazi occupation united into a single organization under the name of Karl Liebknecht Bund (Fourth International).

DEEP ROOTS

Forced to continue working in illegality under the Allied occupation, the organization publishes the underground paper, *Der Spartakist*. The Bund is composed in the main of militant workers in Vienna, who have been tried and tested under the persecution of both Austrian and German fascism.

With deep roots in the Austrian working class movement, they look forward to the future with optimism. Already in a process of growth, they are sure of continued good prospects for the development of the Austrian

Spanish POUM Members Seized, Face Execution

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

PERPIGNAN, France, Apr. 12—It is reported here that several illegal revolutionary militants belonging to the Spanish P.O.U.M. (Workers Party of Marxist Unification) have been arrested by the Franco government for illegal activity in Madrid. So far only the names of three have been made public: Francisco Aymerich, Teodoro Sanz and J. Urbano.

Along with other labor organizations, the French Trotskyist Parti Communiste Internationaliste is appealing for mass protests in all countries to save the seized militants from execution at the hands of the Spanish Fascists.

Trotskyists Are Reported Active In Indonesia

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

AMSTERDAM, Apr. 12—Tan Malakka, Indonesian Communist, expelled from the Communist (Stalinist) Party of that country in 1927 for advocating the principles of the Trotskyist Left Opposition, has been reported active in the current anti-imperialist struggle there.

The London Observer has repeatedly referred to him as "leader of the extremists." Now De Kadt, correspondent of the daily *Het Parool* here, writing from Indonesia, refers to him as a Trotskyist.

According to reports, Tan Malakka had disappeared shortly after his expulsion from the Stalinist party and was not heard from for some time. Towards the close of the war, he is said to have reappeared as a leader in Indonesian politics, at the head of an organized army.

Het Parool says the Trotskyist movement led by him is at present stronger than the "official communist movement." A late dispatch says that Malakka was arrested by the Indonesian government on March 15.

'Could Teach The Gestapo,' Soldier Says Of Lichfield

Excerpts from a U. S. soldier's account of what he saw when he was a prisoner for 33 days at the army's Tenth Reinforcement Depot guardhouse at Lichfield, England, published in a letter to *Newsweek*, April 8:

"They make you run up and down the stairs like a bunch of dogs and if one of the fellows fell down you couldn't stop and help him up, you had to trample over him. If you helped him they took you out and beat hell out of you for it."

"In the mess halls I saw them make fellows get down on their knees and bark for their food like dogs. And if they refused to do it they would stick a loaded gun in their face and make them do it. And if you didn't jump up from the table fast enough when they told you to, they would make you sit up and down 500 times before you left the mess hall. And if one of the boys asked for a little more food, he was sorry for it; they

Starvation In Hungary



Women, children, and old men through a market place in Budapest, Hungary, looking vainly for food. Thousands are starving in this one city alone. Hundreds of millions throughout the world face starvation in the coming months.

WORLD CONFERENCE OF FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

(Continued from Page 1)

a long programmatic manifesto. In this Manifesto the Conference

draws the balance sheet of the second imperialist world war and demonstrates that the capitalist world, which has resolved none of its fundamental contradictions through the war, is again moving—through a period of great economic and political difficulties, dominated by the fundamental antagonism of the USSR and Anglo-American imperialism—on the road toward the third world war. The Conference affirms that only the development of the socialist movement of the world proletariat can prevent this outcome which, in view of the extraordinary destructive force of the new weapons utilizing atomic energy, can

Further Details On Conference

Next week's issue of *The Militant* will carry further details concerning this historic conference of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, founded on the teachings of Leon Trotsky.

Complete text of the documents adopted by the International Conference will be published in the June issue of "Fourth International," monthly magazine of American Trotskyism.

be fatal for the future of humanity.

The Manifesto of the Conference ends by calling on the exploited masses of Europe and the world to fight under the banner of the Fourth International to achieve the economic unification of the world through the Socialist United States of Europe and of the world.

Several leaders of the Fourth International were present at this Conference, among them Comrade J. Haston, secretary of the English section, Comrades Pierre Frank, Bleibtreu, Demaziere and Beaufre, leading members of the French section, etc.

The Conference sent revolutionary greetings to the Trotskyist fighters of Indo-China, Indonesia, India, Spain, the United States, as well as to the exploited masses of these countries who are fighting for their national and social liberation.

Protests Ban On Algerian Party

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

PARIS, Apr. 4—At a huge protest meeting held here today several thousand North African and French workers voiced their protest against the Government's ban of the Algerian People's Party (PPA) and the continued imprisonment of its leader Messali Hadj. They denounced the whole imperialist course of repression undertaken by the French government in its African colonies.

Repeated cheers and applause greeted the speakers, among whom were Jacques Privas and P. Boussel representing the Trotskyist Parti Communiste Internationaliste and Le-Van, representing the Indo-Chinese section of the Fourth International.

The assembled workers warmly greeted speeches by militant Algerians representing the "Comitee de Defense des Libertes Democratiques en Algerie," under whose auspices the protest meeting was held.

Messali Hadj and the PPA have long been close to the views of the Fourth International.

NEW YORK FORUM
"Is MacArthur Bringing Democracy to Japan?"
Speaker:
ALVIN ROYCE
Sunday, April 28
116 University Place 8 p. m.

By Eugene Varlin

After a year of domination by the American imperialists, the population of Germany faces death by starvation. There is "not enough food within the borders of the United States area to sustain life even at semi-starvation levels," states a United

Press dispatch of April 13.

This dispatch quotes reports made to Herbert Hoover, President of Truman's Emergency Famine Committee, by General Joseph T. McNarney, commander of the United States armed forces in the European Theatre and his deputy General Lucius D. Clay. Clay said that food on hand plus imports on the way would supply a daily ration of only 915 calories per person until the next harvest.

A daily ration of 915 calories, or the equivalent of five slices of rye bread, means starvation. It is absolutely impossible to live let alone work on such a ration. Experiments conducted by a League of Nations commission a few years ago showed that a bed-ridden adult, having no exercise whatsoever, still required 1770 calories, or nearly double the contemplated German allotment, to just maintain life.

One result of the drastic cuts in the daily ration has been a steep decline in industrial output. The workers are too weak to maintain the already low production levels.

NOT HUMANITARIANS

Another UP dispatch quotes statements by a group of newspaper editors and publishers touring the American occupation zone in Germany asking that America send food to Germany, not on humanitarian grounds, but to prevent a "costly" revolution.

Frank Gannett, President of the Gannett newspaper chain, declared: "If we do not provide adequate food for the people of Europe, anything may happen over here. In the United States zone . . . people are getting a diet that amounts to 1,270 calories a day. In the Russian zone, people are getting 1,600 calories a day. Democracy cannot successfully compete with communism when such a situation prevails."

Echoing Gannett's fears, Paul Bellamy of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, warned his employers, "However, the U. S. Brass Halls are not disturbed about the fate of starving millions. The number of people they succeed in sending to their deaths has always been a matter of professional pride with them. What they do fear is that the starving German workers will rise in revolt."

General Clay stated that starvation rations and economic collapse "might lead to unrest which will necessitate a larger army of occupation than is now contemplated and for a longer period of time." His solution is not more food, but more troops to put down the expected revolts.

Trotskyist Policy In Greek Election

Employing open armed terror, the reactionary, pro-monarchist Populist party of Greece, rode to power on the result of the rigged and falsified elections of March 31. These puppets of Anglo-American imperialism are now consolidating their newly won power and preparing vicious blows against working class organizations.

While the boycott of the elections constituted an effective protest against the Rightist coup, working class militancy was prevented from being transformed into genuine mass struggle by the vacillation and conciliatory policies of the Stalinist leadership.

It remained for the Greek Trotskyists to try to transform the essential passivity of the Stalinist-led boycott into decisive class action.

The following account translated from the April 8 issue of the Greek Trotskyist paper *Labor Struggle* provides graphic testimony of Trotskyist participation in the workers' struggle against the growing white terror.

"It was apparent to our comrades that the boycott of the election was a means of deepening the workers' struggle. National as well as local Trotskyist organizations issued many proclamations, in which they exposed the purposes of the plutocrats and the imperialists of London and Washington. They appealed to the toilers to oppose the electoral coup d'etat with militant action."

TROTSKYISTS ATTACKED

"In neighborhoods of Athens reactionary bands armed with machine-guns surrounded a group of 10 Trotskyists while they were distributing proclamations. During the fight which followed, comrades Tjorjatos and Aravantinos were wounded. The latter was unconscious when he was taken to the hospital. In spite of the terror more than 20,000 copies of the Trotskyist proclamation were distributed in Athens alone. In meetings supporting the boycott, our literature and slogans

exerted a great influence upon the workers."

"The Stalinist leadership followed the opposite policy, restricting the struggle to passive abstentions. They placed bourgeois-democratic leaders at the head of the struggle. Among them were the former ministers in the Papandreu government, Sotiropoulos, whom they had denounced as a fascist and the monarchist Voulgaris Sofianopoulos."

In a leading editorial, *Labor Struggle* further analyzes the results of the election: "The electoral farce has come to an end, and the formation of a Parliament submissive to the wishes of Greek reaction and foreign imperialism is the first item on the agenda. . . . We have before us a bourgeois offensive which is not even cloaked by pretensions and pseudo-democratic declarations."

TASK AHEAD

Pointing the way to victory against the reaction, the Greek Trotskyists declare: "The historical task of the militant workers in our country is clear: immediate organization of a class front of all the toilers. Unity under the banner of the revolutionary vanguard, mobilized for struggle against the attacks of reaction . . . before it is able to paralyze the forces of the proletariat. Complete eradication of any illusion among the exploited in the possibility of any smooth parliamentary evolution which would abolish violence and exploitation."

BRONX
Open Forum
Meaning of May Day
speaker:
JUSTINE LANG
'Militant' Bus Manager
Sunday, April 28
Questions Discussion
1034 Prospect Ave. 8 p. m.

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IN THE LIGHT OF
MARXIST ANALYSIS

THE MILITANT

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Only the world revolution can save the USSR for socialism. But the world revolution carries with it the inescapable blotting out of the Kremlin oligarchy.

—Leon Trotsky

World Conference Of 4th International

With joy and enthusiasm, The Militant greets the news published in this issue of the recent successful World Conference of the Fourth International, the World Party of Socialist Revolution.

At this fateful hour, when the rapacious Anglo-American imperialists are preparing a third world slaughter, the advanced workers could have received no news more fraught with justified hope than this report of the Fourth International's world gathering.

All other international organizations which pretended to political leadership of the working class are dead. They were destroyed in the fires of that imperialist war which they themselves were instrumental in preparing and supporting. Only the Fourth International, the inheritor of the traditions and ideals of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky, stood up and survived the terrible test of the war.

That the Trotskyist movement emerged from the war more united and influential than before must be a source of deepest gratification in view of the monstrous hardships the fighters for world socialism have had to combat and endure. No other movement of emancipation in history has had to confront such ruthless and powerful adversaries. The imperialists of both the "democratic" and fascist countries remorselessly persecuted the Trotskyists during the war, imprisoned and murdered them.

At the start of the war, Stalin performed an invaluable service to world imperialism by assassinating Leon Trotsky, founder of the Fourth International. The Kremlin had previously murdered Trotsky's son Leon Sedov and a host of sterling revolutionaries through the machinery of its infamous secret police, the GPU.

The leaders of the French, Belgian, German and Greek parties of the Fourth International were shot by Hitler's firing squads. Yet, despite the repeated decimation of their leadership and their ranks, the European Trotskyists continued their work throughout the war under the heel of the Gestapo.

In England and the British colonies of India and Ceylon, the Trotskyist leaders were imprisoned. In "democratic" America, Wall Street imperialism framed up and imprisoned 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party, an avowed Trotskyist organization although not formally affiliated to the Fourth International because of the anti-democratic Voorhis law.

Despite all these bestial blows from the imperialists and their minions, the Fourth International was able to reestablish world-wide connections and hold a world conference within eight months of the ending of military hostilities.

What enabled the isolated sections and militants of the Fourth International to overcome all obstacles, to pursue a common policy of revolutionary struggle, and to come together after six years of separation with increased solidarity and strength? The remarkable vitality of world Trotskyism flows from its Marxist program and the trained and incorruptible cadres built on that program. That program, which summarizes the experiences of the world working class over the past 100 years, its victories as well as its defeats, has once more withstood the test of great events.

The astonishing virility manifested by the parties of the Fourth International during World War II, which has culminated in its recent World Conference, vindicates the confidence that Trotsky expressed in December 1938.

"The Fourth International will enter the next war as a tightly-welded unit, whose sections will be able to follow one and the same policy, irrespective of the boundaries and trenches dividing them. It is quite possible that at the beginning of the war when the blind instinct of self-preservation combined with chauvinist propaganda will push the popular masses towards their governments, the sections of the Fourth International will find themselves isolated. They will know how to withstand nationalist hypnosis and the epidemic of patriotism.

"In the principles of internationalism, they will find a bulwark against the herd panic below, and the terror from above... (the revolutionary movement) will find for its crystallization no other than the Fourth International."

national. Its tempered cadres will lead the toilers to the great offensive."

The workers of the world and the enslaved colonial peoples cannot emancipate themselves from capitalist rule and oppression without unified and coordinated action under capable revolutionary leadership. The Fourth International aims to provide the toiling masses with that indispensable leadership. The Fourth International regenerates the authentic Communism of Lenin and Trotsky. It has no interests separate and apart from those of the world working class.

Today the ideas and program of the Fourth International are the greatest treasure of thousands of the finest militants throughout the world. Tomorrow they will become the flaming banner of revolutionary millions in their struggles for the overthrow of imperialist domination and the creation of international socialism.

Truman's Famine Diet

In his April 19 radio broadcast on famine conditions abroad, President Truman renewed his proposal that the American people go on a famine diet two days out of each week. "We would all be better off, physically and spiritually, if we ate less," opined Truman. "And then on two days a week let us reduce our food consumption to that of the average person in the hungry lands."

Yes, there are people who would be "physically and spiritually" better off to eat less—a lot less. But they are not the millions of workers living on subsistence wages, with their purchasing power visibly shrinking each day as prices soar higher and higher.

The people who should be placed on a famine diet are the rich, who here and in Europe are guzzling to their hearts' and bellies' content. Will they go on a famine diet two days in the week? You can bet your life they won't—not as long as they have the money to get all the food they want, either through the regular channels or through the black market.

If food is so scarce that Truman proposes a two-day famine diet, why does he not also propose the requisition of the plentiful livestock in this country which the big meat packers are refusing to process? Why does the administration permit the meat trust to impose a meat famine on this country in order to force the elimination of price ceilings?

Truman's proposal to "aid the starving" is nothing but a propaganda device to persuade the American workers to accept scarcity and the resultant high prices so profitable to the American capitalists.

Truman's talk about sacrificing for "physical and spiritual" betterment is high-sounding indeed. But the very world-wide famine conditions he refers to are the "physical and spiritual" by-products of the imperialist war, which Truman climaxed with that instrument of "physical and spiritual" uplift, the atomic bomb.

American workers are anxious to help their starving brothers abroad and to make all necessary sacrifices. But they don't want the food they produce and sacrifice to be used to aid capitalist reaction in other countries or benefit the profiteers here at home. To prevent these abuses, the labor and farmer organizations should themselves requisition, administer and distribute all relief food and other supplies in collaboration with the labor organizations in the famine-stricken countries.

CIO-PAC Policy

The CIO Political Action Committee leaders in Washington last week issued a statement of their aims in the elections next November. They declare that labor's fight now "shifts from the picket line to Capitol Hill and the ballot box" and warn that "our victories on the economic front will be swept away if the people meet defeat on the political front."

How do the CIO leaders propose to avert this defeat? Sidney Hillman, CIO-PAC national chairman, explained that the organization would strive to elect "progressive" candidates.

The American workers have had a long and sad experience with this policy of supporting "progressive" candidates of the two major Wall Street parties, Republican and Democratic. Only last week they tasted the latest bitter fruits of that policy when the House voted for unrestrained inflation.

CIO President Philip Murray answered this latest Congressional assault on labor's living conditions by sending out telegrams to all Congress of Industrial Organization affiliates urging "drastic action." By "drastic action," aside from sending the usual ineffective post cards, Murray means the same thing as Hillman. He too proposes to conduct a campaign to elect more "progressives."

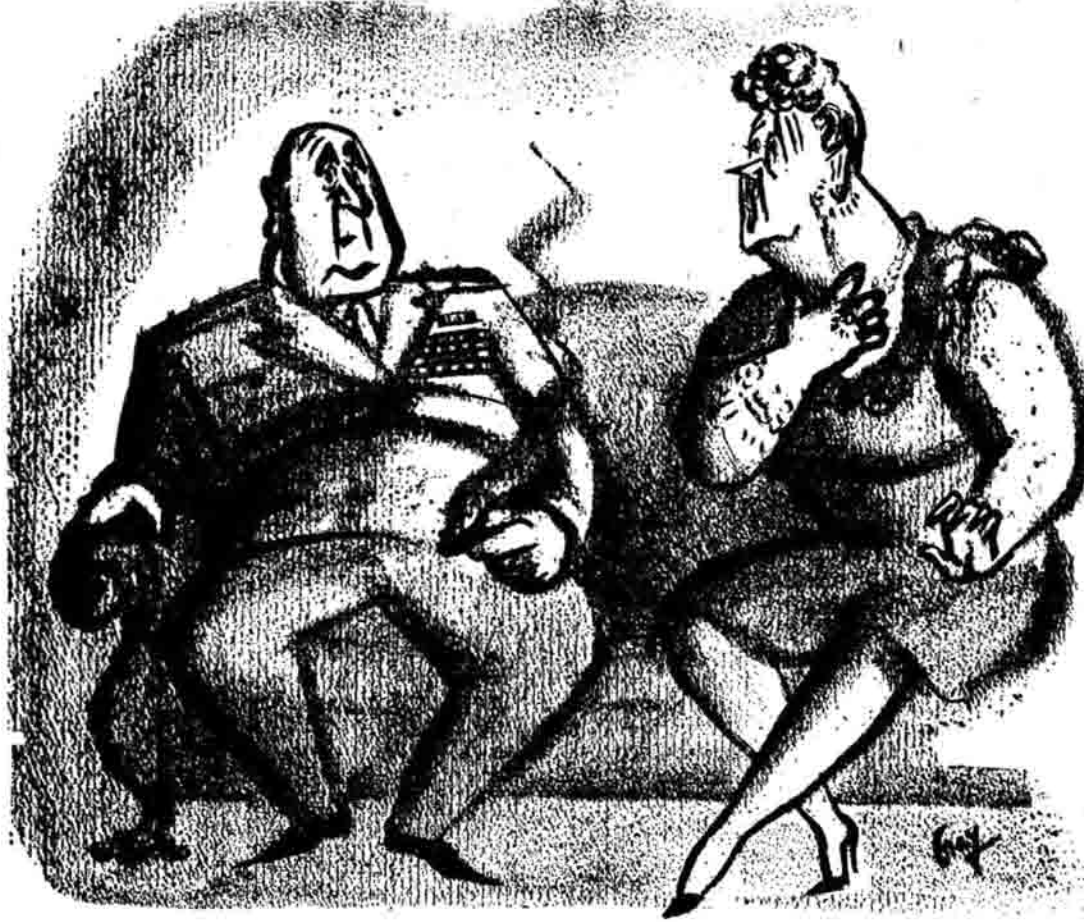
But the very Congress against which such "drastic action" is urged was greeted in November 1944 as a "progressive" Congress. Its election was called a "progressive victory" by the CIO-PAC leaders.

Any Congress controlled by the candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties will be anti-labor and serve only the interests of Big Business. To urge the workers in 1948 to back "progressive" candidates of these parties is to prepare a repetition of the political debacle suffered by labor in November 1944 and thereafter.

What the union militants must demand is an end to this bankrupt policy. The American workers' need is a party of their own, an independent labor party. The formation of such a party is the only "drastic action" that will provide real political strength for labor and pave the way for the abolition of Big Business political rule.

READ "FOURTH INTERNATIONAL"

Revolutionary Theoretical Magazine



"I'm so glad you've explained the atomic bomb that way, General. Of course, an explosion that lasts only a split second is far more humanitarian!"

Workers BOOKSHELF

ONE WORLD OR NONE.—A Report To The Public on the Full Meaning of the Atomic Bomb. Published by McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1946. 72 pp., \$1.

This is an alarming book, written by a group of frightened men. These frightened men are eminent scientists, physicists and others, whose discovery of the atom bomb has placed unlimited powers of destruction in the hands of the maniacal rulers of capitalist society.

All of the individual scientists contributing to this book, as well as the Federation of American Scientists, are agreed on three main points: 1. The frightful destructiveness of the atom bomb. 2. There can be no lasting "security" about its manufacture. 3. There is no defense against it.

Philip Morrison, professor of physics at Cornell University, was sent by the War Department to Japan after Hiroshima blew up in the boiling fury of the bomb's first experiment on human beings. To bring home the dreadful power of this instrument of annihilation, Morrison gives a vivid description of the possible effects of a single bomb on one section of New York City.

In addition to the immense property damage in this atom-bombed Manhattan, "about three hundred thousand were killed... as many again were seriously injured." The "lucky ones" who were not killed in this area numbered twenty thousand and maybe many more. These "died of unstoppable internal hemorrhages, of wildfire infections, of slow oozing of the blood into the flesh." This hypothetical story he concludes, "is unreal in only one way; the bomb will never again, as in Japan, come in ones or twos. They will come in hundreds, even in thousands." In a new war, he predicts, "the cities of men on earth will perish."

Another scientist points out

that "atomic explosives are vastly cheaper than ordinary explosives," and do the job a thousand times more effectively. Only mass annihilation through spread of disease germs offers "competition for the evil that a dollar (invested in a-bombs) can do."

NO DEFENSE

Louis N. Ridenour, authority on radar, another important new discovery, upon which the chief hope is placed to provide a defense against atomic bombs, categorically states: "THERE IS NO DEFENSE." Other scientists corroborate that no military defense exists and none can be devised. "Atomic bombs are able to destroy the cities of the world and they will do so if used in another war."

Is the bomb a secret? All the scientists agree that it was a secret—to all countries—only until the first bomb was made and successfully tested. Today all the groping, speculation, intensive research and vast funds required to make the first bomb are eliminated. Moreover, "it is no longer necessary to depend upon the vision and judgment of the men of rare genius. Quite average scientists can appreciate the factors involved."

All that is required, in addition to uranium deposits, is a sufficiently developed modern industrial capacity, and financial resources. Any nation possessing the finances and industrial capacity to wage war has the resources with which to make the bomb. The period of time in which other nations are expected to duplicate the bomb is set at anywhere from two to six years. All this, they say, "adds up to the most dangerous situation that humanity has ever faced in all history."

The Federation of American (Atomic) Scientists sums up the terrible problem:

1. The problem has brought us

to one of the great crises of history.

2. The problem has moved on to the political plane and will remain there.

3. The problem is a world problem. There can be no merely national solution.

They wind up with the frightened cry: "THERE IS NO MUCH TIME! AND SURVIVAL IS AT STAKE!" But these highly specialized scientific workers HAVE NO ANSWER!

PROBLEM SUMMED UP

These highly skilled scientific workers, like the workers of the whole world, are today chained to the capitalist system. Since the discovery of the atom bomb, they have been made virtual captives of the capitalist military clique.

The whole trouble with these scientists is this: that whereas the class-conscious workers of the world are engaged in a stubborn struggle against their imperialist masters, the "educated" but politically backward scientists submit without radical protest to these bestial exploiters of the world's best brains and brawn. They offer no solution except to throw themselves and the world's masses upon the mercy of that U.S. imperialist giant which already holds the conquered world in its bloody clutches. Thus they expedite the very catastrophe they hope to avert.

These frightened men are incapable of seeing or understanding the immense, creative power of the working class. For only the working class can meet this "deadly challenge" to civilization and prevent the destruction of mankind by the atom bomb, through the revolutionary overthrow of the imperialist rulers, together with their capitalist madhouse of wars, poverty, terror and destruction.

Reviewed by
Larissa Reed

Congressmen At Work

A small minority of Congressmen objected on March 11 to the atom bomb experiment scheduled to blow up a half-billion dollars worth of anchored ships in the mid-Pacific.

Representative Johnson of Oklahoma felt sick about including "18 ships that were constructed in 1944 and six or eight ships that were constructed in 1945..." He had to admit, however, that "it will be a great show." Only he doesn't want to join the boys on the special observation ship for Congressmen.

"For my part, I have no desire to witness it. I could get no enjoyment or satisfaction in seeing 100 ships or a fewer number, sent to the bottom of the ocean, especially when I know that 18 of them are new ships only finished in 1945, ships that I voted hundreds of millions to construct."

Johnson didn't believe much new will be discovered in the experiment. "Does any member of this Congress doubt what will happen if the test is on the up and up?... So what are we trying to do here except put on a show and sink a whole fleet of ships, many of which we may be called upon to replace sooner than we now anticipate..."

Representative Thompson of Texas likewise spoke out against this "glorified experiment, or perhaps a glorified junkie," in



his opinion the atom bomb has already passed the experimental stage. "The atomic bomb was given quite a test out in New Mexico. Later on it was given a real test at Hiroshima and Nagasaki... Now, less than 10 months after VE-Day and less than 8 months after VJ-Day, it is proposed to send these 90 ships out into the far Pacific—at a time when all this war talk is going around the world—it is proposed to sink 5 battleships that cost \$100,000,000 each to build..."

"What does it prove? What more will you know about the atomic bomb than you know now?... Yet my distinguished friend, the gentleman from Georgia, says he is going to ask soon for a large appropriation for new ships. Sink or damage them one day—build new ones the next day."

Thomason felt so strongly about the "wanton destruction of 90 great ships" that he even had a counter suggestion: "You had better take some of these ships and send food to the starving in Europe. You might use some of them to bring our boys home. You might also bring back some of our surplus property now scattered over the world."

The opposition to the terrifically expensive experiment, however, quickly folded under fire from the Congressmen wetting their lips at the thought of a free trip out in the Pacific on a ship larded by the luxury-loving Admirals.

Thomason back-watered as only a Congressman can when he gets crossed up with the rest of the gang. He was simply fighting, he explained, against the destruction of any armaments such as "battleships, airplane carriers and cargo carriers... I think this is entirely too critical a time for us to be sinking any 90 ships."

And then to make the record doubly clear that he isn't really opposed in principle to the destruction of half-billion dollars' worth of public property, Thomason added: "I think it is just bad business at this time. If it is necessary or advisable later, I will then support it."

(To Be Continued)

PROBLEMS FACING WAR VETERANS

By CHARLES CARSTEN

'The Militant' And The Veterans

Practically all the newspapers and magazines in the country are directly controlled by big capitalists. They speak in the interest of their owners and the advertisers and are silent about subjects considered taboo by their masters.

For example newspapers and magazines in this country are now busily engaged in a campaign calculated to sell the veteran the idea that they are getting "magnificent benefits" from the so-called GI Bill of Rights. More and more of them are beginning to echo the sentiment expressed by the April 12 United States News which pretends that many veterans prefer "a year's vacation" on the unemployed pay of \$20 a week for 52 weeks rather than "available" jobs.

These Wall Street controlled organs rarely, if ever, mention the fact that the majority of available jobs pay no more than \$26 a week. They, along with other spokesmen for Big Business, say nothing now about the promises made during the war to the effect that jobs for all at a "living wage" would be assured in the post-war world.

Government and Big Business propagandists operate on the theory that man's memory is short. In sharp contrast to Wall Street's press, The Militant, a workers' paper, tells the whole truth, advances and fights for a program that is in the interest of the workers and veterans. Here are a few examples of how The Militant treated issues that other papers either avoided or lied about.

Before and during the war, The Militant warned the young men who were being dragged into the armed forces that the promises made them by capitalist propagandists were nothing but lies. It said conditions would be no better following the war.

Supported GI Demonstrations

When the fighting ended, The Militant demanded immediate demobilization. From the very first it gave all-out support to GIs in their "Get Us Home" demonstrations and called on the entire labor movement to back to the hilt the demands of the GIs.

During the war and since, The Militant has been an unwavering champion of the enlisted men. It carries exposures of Brass Hat and Gold Braid privileges and supports the enlisted men in their efforts to introduce democratic reforms in the Army and Navy.

The Militant was the first paper in the United States to expose the savage treatment of American soldiers in the Lichfield (England) guardhouse. It is the only paper that has shown precisely where the policy of brutality originated—in the high command of the United States Army.

Calling attention to the criminal neglect of the disabled veterans, The Militant demands mobilization of all the resources of the country to give the wounded the best that science and medicine can devise.

These are only a few of the issues on which The Militant has raised its voice. No other newspaper has a record in any way comparable. Newspapers expressing the viewpoint of Big Business are supported with subsidies and advertising. The Militant does not sell advertising space. It has to be subsidized by workers and people genuinely devoted to the interests of workers and veterans. At present, The Militant, is conducting a campaign for \$15,000 to aid in its publication.

The Militant has aided you in your struggle. Now it needs your financial assistance. You who are now reading these lines, put a quarter, a half, a dollar or more—whatever you can afford—into an envelope NOW and send it in to help the fight. You will find the blank on page 6.

GE Monopoly Blocks New Cure For Cancer

For four years the Morgan-dominated General Electric monopoly suppressed a revolutionary new invention, the betatron, which scientists declare can aid in curing the dread disease of cancer. This was disclosed last week by Federated Press and reported in the April 15 CIO News.

In the four years that GE bottled up this invention, half a million cancer victims have died. Many of them, scientists say, might have been cured with the aid of this machine. Major credit for putting an end to this vile practice goes to the CIO Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union, which recently forced GE to relax its stranglehold on this important machine.

The betatron is a machine similar to the cyclotron, (the "atom smasher" used on the atom bomb project) which produces high energy rays capable of breaking up the nucleus of the atom. With the betatron it is possible to concentrate a greater amount of cancer-destroying rays than is possible today with the best X-ray apparatus, and thus aid treatment of cancers deep within the body.

But GE has a monopoly on the more complicated and expensive high voltage X-ray equipment with which the betatron would compete, and which it will render obsolete.

Professor Donald Kerst invented the betatron in 1940 at the University of Illinois. He took his invention to GE because this corporation, which produces X-ray machines, had the facilities for his further development. After spending two years in the GE laboratory, together with atomic physicists, GE employs and eminent cancer specialists, Kerst perfected a working model.

GE immediately patented his invention on the ground that anything produced in their laboratory became their property. Then they suppressed the machine. They even refused to license its patent rights so that other companies might build these machines.

While refusing to build the betatron for any medical, hospital or commercial use, GE did permit Allis Chalmers to build five 20-million-volt machines for the government. The government used these machines to test shells and aid the atom bomb project. All this time, up to February 1946, six years after the betatron's invention and four years after a working model had been built, cancer specialists and radio-therapists in New York and Chicago have been vainly clamoring for betatrons to carry on their research in the cure for cancer.

It was only during the recent strike of the CIO union against GE, when the corporation cynically charged that the strike was holding up cancer research, that the truth began to come out. The union retorted that they "knew what was holding it up"—"and it wasn't the picket lines." GE, fearing that the whole shocking story of the suppression would be made public, offered its first betatron to the Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, which had been vainly asking for one for some time.

WORKERS' FORUM

The Workers' Forum columns are open to the opinions of the readers of "The Militant". Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers. Keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed.

New Reader Applauds V. Grey Series On Study of Marxism

Editor: In the March 18 issue of The Militant appeared a new article under "Shop Talks on Socialism" by V. Grey. It was titled "Why we should study Marxism."

Being a new reader of The Militant, I find this article very interesting as it simplifies the study of Marxism more to my standards.

It introduces how Marxism is an honest study of the system we live in and is a revolutionary study.

Since it is to be a series of articles, I think it would be wise for all the new readers to clip the articles from the paper and save them for careful study to get the full meaning of Marxism and how socialism is developing.

I also think it would be a good idea since there are so many new readers and subscribers to The Militant, that you have a place where words and definitions can be put in a column each week to help the new readers understand the Marxist vocabulary.

R. R.
Detroit, Mich.

Monopolists Bury Inventions As "Military Secrets"

Editor: I have been reading with interest the articles in The Militant which show the deliberate attempts of the capitalists to withhold important advances in the fields of science and medicine on the grounds that they are military "secrets."

The army recently sent out a communication that all information on new planes, including obsolete models designed during the war, be kept from the press. This just shows how far they will go to retard development in any field they can get a finger into.

Before the war they kept many wonderful products off the market because they wanted to be sure they had a permanent monopolized market.

At last they have found an excuse. Military secrecy.

A. L.
Los Angeles

Housing Crisis In Milwaukee Is Greatest Problem To Vets

Editor:

Veterans who had looked forward to the war's end as a promise of peace and security are finding out daily that their battles on the home front are just beginning.

The rosy jobs are non-existent. General price increases make a decent standard of living impossible for the common GI. Even the most essential necessities of home and shelter, have been denied to men returning from tents and fox holes. Owners of rooming houses and hotels use every pretext to beat the rent ceilings.

This case of a returned veteran in Milwaukee is typical. A soldier who had spent three years in the Pacific desperately begged an owner of five rooming houses for a place to live. The landlord explained that while his choicest rooms were occupied, he had an opening in the basement of one house.

The soldier was tired and willing to sleep anywhere, but he had not planned to pay weekly rent to sleep next to a stoker. The basement room was a dilapidated laundry room, no longer in use.

The furniture consisted of rusty mattress springs, an old ice-box devoid of doors, a clattering of cardboard boxes, one low bunk (with one thin pillow and one thin blanket), a chair with the stuffing torn out, and a worn square of rug.

Loose and rotting boards made the wooden floor dangerous and an invitation to rats. Cardboard and yellowed paper filled in the lower half of one window.

The veteran was an outdoor worker employed to dig wells a short distance outside of the city. When we remarked about the mud clinging in chunks on his boots, he explained that times were hard.

"What do you think should be done?" we asked.

"I don't know, I'm pretty tired of everything. I don't want to start anything."

"Workers are alike all over the world. If they don't have jobs they go hungry, homeless. They don't get any reward or help from the bosses who got rich out of the war," we said.

He scowled, "No—I'm not go-

ing to fight for my country again. It isn't mine."

Marie Gregory
Milwaukee, Wis.

Army Brass Hats Never Lose Sight Of Privileges

Editor:

The army brass usually defend their positions by claiming that giving the officers privileges and rights denied to the enlisted men, are conducive of good discipline and a necessary factor in carrying out the army's functions.

Few officers, though, like to lose sight of the advantages this system gives them, whether or not a high degree of discipline is necessary in their particular organization in order for it to accomplish its duties properly. They like the enlisted men to know who is boss in any circumstance.

I happened at one time to be in an outfit where "anything went." The officer even delighted in making himself a regular fellow—just one of the boys. However, we were made to realize that this was still the army, and that we must always retain our respect for rank, when one of the enlisted men while drunk committed the unpardonable sin of cursing at our commanding officer.

This—the LIMIT in enlisted men-officer relations—resulted in a court martial and a subsequent sentence of six months in the guard house for the enlisted man.

Should the reverse take place, that is, were the officer to curse the enlisted man (this occurs on some occasions in the army) and should the soldier carry his case to a higher officer (this procedure usually is not attempted due to fear of repercussions), it is doubtful whether the officer would receive any discipline beyond a sharp reprimand, and some fatherly advice by his superior officer on the handling of enlisted men.

And the enlisted man with a grievance has put himself behind the eight-ball, because he still takes orders from the officer he complained against.

Howard Zucker
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Discrimination Against Negro GI Was Army 'Accepted Procedure'

Editor:

I am a veteran who saw at first-hand the army's Jim Crow system.

When in the beginning of the war the U. S. Army came out with its segregation program for colored soldiers, the Brass Hats explained that such a policy was needed as a preventive measure against clashes between white and colored troops. More reasons were given, most of them saturated with racial discrimination.

Some newspapers praised the Brass Hats for their foresight in thus securing "smooth relationships" among personnel in the army.

In this way colored citizens in the army were put in groups where they could be discriminated against in mass. Their lot was made even harder by their officers, the majority of whom were white, and who had caste and class prejudices.

Discrimination against colored soldiers at army courts-martial was an accepted procedure. No enlisted man who violated any of the innumerable rules and regulations could hope for clemency. A Negro soldier often could not even hope for justice. He had no right to challenge any one of the judges. There was no lack of prejudiced officers on these courts martial staffs.

While serving in Camp Aterbury, in the early part of '43 I had a chance to observe the army's interpretation of equal rights. In a camp, surrounded by Jim Crow towns, were two divisions. The 88th was composed of white and the 93rd of colored. Both were undergoing the same

training. The white soldiers, however, could leave on pass, and find a place in one of the surrounding towns where they could relax and find entertainment for a night or weekend. The colored soldiers couldn't.

While the army stressed the importance of recreation for off-duty hours, only one of the four existing service clubs was open to Negro soldiers. In a period of four months only once was a dance held in this service club. In the others they were held weekly.

I ran across the same situation in Leyte in the Philippines. A dance was being given for patients of the First Convalescent Hospital where 3,000 white and colored soldiers were being reconditioned for further action. Despite the fact that there were a few colored Red Cross girls present, the commanding officers posted military police on all entrances of the building to turn all Negro soldiers away.

The Negro soldier was needed for all the dirty and heavy work. He was used for heavy engineering jobs; port battalions. He had to slave under the unmerciful sun of the Pacific; to unload cargoes during air raids and shellings. The army bosses took good care that he wouldn't balk, or unite with his white comrades to demand more rights for the enlisted men in the army.

Only by deliberately suppressing the Negro soldier's rights could the Brass Hats succeed, and they did.

Ted Rust
Philadelphia, Pa.

Army Caste System Imposes Social Barriers Against GIs

Editor:

The social gulf between the men and officers was the hardest to take of all the manifestations of the army's officer caste system. This was because the officers could flaunt it in the faces of the men and glow with pride at the displeasure shown by the men.

In Italy the officers always had elaborate clubs at the camps and also in the nearby towns where they gave their gala affairs nightly with liquors and wines flowing as freely as water. It was a court martial offense for an enlisted man to bring one drop of the mildest wine into the camp area.

The officers would go to the club, buy bottles of liquor and pass through the camp area swinging the bottles for all the enlisted men to see. Then they would proceed to their tents and have their gay high times until all hours of the night.

They weren't satisfied to stay in the club and drink. They wanted to be heard and seen. They were officers, they were the privileged class.

They even brought their women out to the camp for the enlisted men to see, but not to touch. Red Cross girls, USO girls and nurses were officer material only. When USO shows came to camps, the best performances were put on in the officers' clubs. There all-night parties took place as soon as the very short performance for the enlisted men was over.

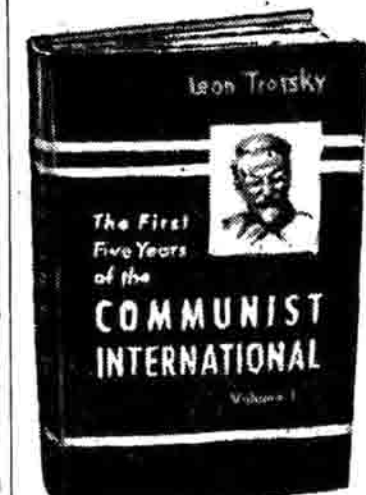
In Lecce, Italy, the Red Cross club, which was supposed to be an enlisted man's club, gave weekly dances for the officers and their Italian officer friends. This was shortly after the surrender of the Italians. At these affairs the tables were piled high with American cigarettes free to

all—the enlisted men were rationed three packs a week and couldn't buy more. There were cookies, ice cream and wines free to all, but at the enlisted men's affairs there was a slight charge for such things. Fifteen cents for ice cream and cookies, no cigarettes or wines.

I asked a Red Cross girl about this difference of procedure at the enlisted men's affairs and she told me this difference was ordered by the army brass.

"If you enlisted men only knew what the officers think of you," she said, shaking her head. We know what they think of us and now we are letting them know what we think of them and the section of society which they represent.

J. E.
New York



348 pages \$1.50
cloth 2.50
PIONEER PUBLISHERS
116 University Place
New York 3, N. Y.

Pioneer Notes

In the second edition of the pamphlet by Charles Jackson, A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow, a blue insert slip was enclosed. This slip told the reader "YOU CAN HELP KILL JIM CROW" by helping to distribute this pamphlet, and asked the reader to return the slip with \$1.00 with the names of 10 friends to whom he wished the pamphlet sent.

We have already had a highly encouraging return of this insert slip. It is gratifying to see that our readers are so impressed with this pamphlet that they want to be sure that their friends receive it also. So far we have received three slips from Philadelphia, two from Brooklyn, one from Chicago and one from Shreveport, Louisiana.

The friend from Shreveport sent in the dollar and intends to pass the pamphlet to his friends, directly. He also is going to do the same thing with Jobs for All. His most interesting letter reads:

"Please also send me by return mail 10 copies of your pamphlet Jobs for All. I have just read a copy that was loaned to me by a friend, and I am so impressed by the reading and the information which it contains that I want to get a few copies that I may give to my friends.

"I have already placed my order for the newspaper, The Militant, which I am expecting to get in the very near future. If you have any other literature that you think would be of interest to me, I would appreciate it if you would keep me informed. I would appreciate it very much if you would put me on your mailing list."

A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow, second edition, by Charles Jackson, 10c.
Jobs for All—A Fighting Program for Labor, by Art Preis, 10c.
Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

Youth Group Activities

NEW YORK — The Trotskyist Youth Group meets at 116 University Place. Send name and address for information.

Sunday educational and discussion, 8 p.m., Chelsea Workers Center, 130 W. 23rd St.

Harlem: Every Monday, 8 p.m., class on "Fundamentals of Socialism," Dick Guerrero, instructor, 103 W. 110 St., R. 23.

Bronx: Youth class on "What Is Socialism," Thursday, 8 p.m., at 1034 Prospect Avenue.

BUFFALO — Militant Youth Club meets every Sunday, 7 p.m. Discussion, music, dramatics. Refreshments served. Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor.

PHILADELPHIA — Youth Forums held every Saturday, 8 p.m. 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor.

LOS ANGELES — Write to SWP headquarters, 145 S. Broadway, for information on Youth Group activities.

Watch this column for further details on youth activities.



This May Day issue of The Militant carries with it a deep meaning for our thousands of readers.

First, it marks the first anniversary of our 8-page paper. In addition, The Militant has been recognized by thousands of workers on the picket lines in the steel, auto, electrical, packinghouse, mining and other industries as the paper that is the foremost champion of the fight for labor's struggles for a better world.

During the past year, The Militant has been introduced to thousands of new readers in two campaigns. The first held in the Spring was a three-month campaign calling for 20,000 new readers which ended with a total of 22,437 new readers. In the Fall, we held an eight-week campaign for 10,000 additional readers, which resulted in a gain of 10,681 readers.

Also, the press run of The Militant during the period of the strike wave ran to an unprecedented high of 68,000, thus affording thousands of striking workers an opportunity to read our paper which was distributed to them at union meetings, plant gates and picket lines.

Libby Jones of Buffalo writes: "One of our comrades went out to a Negro neighborhood last Sunday, and sold five renewals in visits to eight people. The response was very enthusiastic."

"One subscriber told him: 'I've never read any paper like The Militant. It tells the truth. At first I read it because it fought discrimination, and I didn't pay much attention to the other part of the paper. But now I read it through from beginning to end every week.'"

H. Shervin of Minnesota, a Militant reader, is also one of our most consistent sub-getters. In the past few months he has introduced The Militant to many of his friends and made subscribers of them.

Here's his most recent note: "My neighbor appeared quite interested in your paper, so I wish to give him a gift of a six month subscription. You can use the balance of the enclosed money

to renew my own subscription which will expire shortly."

Ray Burns of San Pedro sent this interesting note: "The longshoremen here have become very familiar with The Militant, since it has been distributed for quite some time at their union meetings every other Thursday night. 'One night our car broke down and we were 15 minutes late arriving at the hall. When we did arrive, huge lines had already formed in front of the two doors of the hall. 'Come on,' they called to us, 'You're late!' and eager hands reached out to get their copy of The Militant.'"

Branches of the Socialist Workers Party are vying with one another for representation in this column.

Bob Kingsley of Cleveland writes to remind us to be sure to include the fact that they have obtained 60 subs this week. The top scorers in this week's breakdown are:

Cleveland—27 one year and 32 six-month renewals plus 1 new six-month subscription.

Boston — 24 new six-month subs as well as 7 six-month and 1 one-year renewal.

Philadelphia — 11 six-month new subs and 3 six-month renewals.

Seattle—18 six-month renewals as well as 3 six-month and 1 one-year new subscription.

New York City—13 six-month and 1 one-year new subscription plus 3 six-month and 4 one-year renewals.

San Francisco — 2 six-month and 1 one-year new subs, 3 six-month and 3 one-year renewals. And 1 one-year new and 2 one-year combination renewals to The Militant and the Fourth International.

Cincinnati—5 six-month and 8 one-year new subscriptions. Newark—8 six-month and 3 one-year new subs as well as 2 six-month renewals.

Brooklyn
Gala Social
Saturday, Apr. 27
635 Fulton 8 p.m.

OUR PROGRAM:

1. Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!

A sliding scale of hours! Reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay!

A rising scale of wages! Increase wages to meet the increased cost of living!

Government operation of all idle and government-built plants under workers' control!

Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages during the entire period of unemployment!

2. Independence of the trade unions from the government!

No restriction on the right to strike!

3. Organization of the war veterans by the trade unions!

Down with Jim Crow!

5. Build an independent labor party!

No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!

7. A working class answer to capitalist militarism!

Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!

Trade union wages for all workers in the armed forces!

8. Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the workers in all lands!

For the complete independence of the colonial peoples!

Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!

9. For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!

Join the Socialist Workers Party!

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
116 University Place
New York 3, New York

I would like:

☐ To join the Socialist Workers Party.

☐ To obtain further information about your organization.

☐ To attend meetings and forums of the Socialist Workers Party in my city.

NAME (Please Print)

STREET

CITY

POSTAL ZONE STATE

'MILITANT' SUSTAINING FUND CAMPAIGN REACHES 40 PCT. OF QUOTA IN FIFTH WEEK

By Justine Lang
Campaign Director

This May Day Issue of *The Militant* marks the first anniversary of our 8-page paper. In true bolshevik spirit, comrades, readers and friends are showing their solid support to sustain and continue our 8-page paper by their overwhelming response to our Militant Sustaining Fund Drive.

At the conclusion of the fifth week of our drive, \$6,109.58 has been sent in. This sum represents 40 per cent of our national quota of \$15,000 which is to be attained by June 15. We are still ahead of schedule, and there is every indication that our halfway mark will be reached also in advance of schedule.

Similarly, the response to our request for \$1,000 per week has been consistent and enthusiastic. The weekly quota of \$1,000 has been oversubscribed each time! A check of the scoreboard this week reveals some very interesting developments.

Baltimore and Reading now join the list of "100 per centers," branches of the Socialist Workers Party which have either completed or gone over their quota.

BALTIMORE OVER TOP

The Baltimore Branch has been very consistent in its contributions to the Militant Fund Drive. Since the inception of the campaign Baltimore has been one of the high scoring branches. Now it is the fourth branch nationally to reach the 100 per cent goal.

Reading also is to be commended. Last week it was in 27th place nationally, having fulfilled only 8 per cent of its quota. However, it rallied its forces in a special effort to complete its quota in record time.

From our mail this week, we pass on the following items of interest to our readers.

FROM MAIL BAG

Duncan Conway, Militant Fund Director of Local New York writes: "The campaign in New York is gathering real momentum. Ours is a joint campaign for the Militant Fund and Local New York expansion. Our goal is \$5,000—\$3,500 for the Militant drive and \$1,500 for city expansion."

"In order to make such a high goal, we have to utilize every possible outside source for contributions. We have so far obtained pledges of \$205 from sympathizers and expect to collect considerably more than this amount by the end of the campaign. Another regular source of money is the collection taken for the Militant Fund at our Sunday night forums. Up to now, we have received \$56.32 in this way. In addition, Comrades Ida Brandt and Fred Nomen held a house party last week to which sympathizers and friends, were

Special N. Y. Announcement!

Edward J. Ferguson

Veteran and brother of the two Ferguson boys slain by a Jim Crow cop in Freeport, L. I., will be a guest speaker at the New York

MAY DAY RALLY of the Socialist Workers Party.

This is his first appearance as a speaker in New York City.

Greet 'Militant' On May Day

A contribution of \$2 was received by *The Militant* this week with the following note: "We would like to put this greeting in the May Day issue of *The Militant*."

Revolutionary Greetings!
Stephen and Timothy
Egbertsville, New York.

invited. \$26 was raised in this manner.

"The Harlem Branch of Local New York warrants special mention for its outstanding record in this drive. Harlem stands far ahead of the other four New York branches, having attained 53 per cent of its quota. This is the only branch which has already gone over the halfway mark, two weeks before the midpoint of the campaign. Harlem should also be commended for the clocklike regularity with which its payments have come in every week to the City Office."

"Our four other branches are also at work. Their percentages to date are Chelsea 36, Bronx 36, Brooklyn 34, and Central 33. In explanation of Central's position at the end of the list, we ought to add that this branch voluntarily raised its quota from \$800 to \$1,500."

L. Lynn of Minneapolis: "We have several collection lists in circulation now, and in the next week or two should have some results to report from this source."

G. Worth of Boston writes: "We are enclosing our checks totalling \$158 on our Militant Fund. This brings our fund collection to \$343 and almost to our goal. The funds are allocated as follows — \$150 from comrades' pledges, and \$8 from three collection lists. The Militant Collection Lists consisted of small amounts, but all the people who are approached gave money willingly to one of our sympathizers, who is doing an excellent job."

"There is a great deal of genuine spirit to get our quota in as soon as possible. The comrades look forward to the national and local scores in the campaign."

From Flint, Douglas Snyder writes: "Am sending another check for \$30 on the Militant Fund Drive. It is very encouraging to see how our comrades and sympathizers here are sacrificing for this important fund in spite of the long strike that we have been through."

WEEKLY QUOTAS

Julie Miller of Los Angeles sends this note: "Last week we held a meeting of the Branch Militant Fund Directors. At this meeting we decided that we were going to base ourselves in a 10-week period, and in this way we can give ourselves a real margin. This means that we will try to send in a minimum of \$200 each week."

We hope other branches will adopt the weekly quota schedule and try to meet it regularly, thus guaranteeing the attaining of our national quota by June 15.

Our "General" contributions this week took a leap over last week. This category includes contributions from friends, money from the "I Want To Help!" coupon, collection lists, etc. Next week we'll quote some very interesting comments from our reader-contributors, telling about their enthusiastic support of our fund campaign.

\$15,000

Ring the Bell!



APRIL 18 — \$6,109.58

SCOREBOARD

	QUOTA	PAID	PER-CENT
NEW YORK YOUTH	50	79.50	159
PORTLAND	25	26	104
ROCHESTER	50	50	100
BALTIMORE	25	25	100
READING	100	100	100
Boston	400	343	85
Minneapolis	500	352	70
Connecticut	100	69.50	69
Flint	100	65	65
Buffalo-Lackawanna	500	281.50	56
San Francisco	1000	551	55
Newark	300	150	50
St. Louis	50	25	50
Milwaukee	100	48.60	48
St. Paul	250	115	46
Youngstown	400	184.80	46
New York City	3500	1532.72	43
Cleveland	250	104	41
Cincinnati	25	10	40
Akron	300	107	35
Los Angeles	2000	678	33
Philadelphia	500	151.56	30
Chicago	1500	427.60	28
Detroit	1250	343	28
Allentown-Bethlehem	75	20	26
Pittsburgh	100	26.50	26
Philadelphia Youth	25	5.55	22
Bayonne	75	15	20
Toledo	200	36.50	18
Seattle	500	63	13
Los Angeles Youth	75	8.75	12
San Diego	100	0	0
General	575	114.50	20
TOTAL	15,000	6109.58	40

Greek Comrade Greets First 'Militant' Received In Years

Dear Comrades:

I have just read a copy of your paper, which by chance fell in my hands. It is true, the paper dated from August of the past year; nevertheless its reading caused me an enormous emotion and an indescribable joy; it was as if I have met an old dear friend.

Allow me to inform you that I am since 1937 one of your co-thinkers dispersed in all the parts of the world. Here, in Greece during the last ten years the conditions of our existence and of our action were extremely cruel as you know; particularly we had not the means to acquire informations about the revolutionary labor movement.

I think it is not inconvenient from my part to address to you the following request: Send me, by the post, some books, some pamphlets, whatever you have disposable (I should prefer works of Trotsky and other classics). I am able to understand English with no great difficulty, though I cannot write easily and without errors. At present it is not possible to remit to you any sum of money. But my great desire to communicate with the movement obliges me to ignore this obstacle.

I should be very grateful to you if I shall get an answer from your part.

Excuse my miserable English.
Comradely yours,

A Friend
Greece

'Investigation' On Fontana Conceals Vigilante Terror

By Lois Saunders
(Special to *The Militant*)

LOS ANGELES, Apr. 14—Three and one-half months after the event, California's attorney general has at long last issued a "final report" of his investigation into the causes of the disastrous fire which wiped out all four members of the Negro family of O'Day H. Short in Fontana, California.

As indicated in the Socialist Workers Party pamphlet, "Vigilante Terror in Fontana," the report of Attorney General Robert W. Kenny proves that he is far more concerned not to lose votes than he is to uncover the activities of the vigilante thugs who had threatened violence to the Short family only two weeks before the fire.

In the lengthy report, there is not a single indication that Kenny's deputies made the slightest effort to find out who the vigilantes are, or to force them to account for their actions on the afternoon of the fire. After denying that there is evidence to show that the fire was of incendiary origin, the report concludes:

"Our investigation has also covered the possibility of organized vigilante activity in Fontana directed against the Negroes in that community and against Mr. Short personally. No evidence of such activity has been found."

SHORT REPORTED THREATS

Yet, two weeks before the fire, Short reported to his friends and relatives, to the Negro press, to his lawyer and to the FBI that he had been threatened, that he had been told that the "vigilante committee" had met on his case, that he'd better vacate his home—or else.

Nowhere does the attorney general's report show that his investigators even questioned J. Sutherland, who Short reported delivered these threats to him.

Kenny's investigation was not undertaken until two months after the tragedy—after a full inquiry was insistently demanded by the Socialist Workers Party, Negro organizations, labor unions, and other groups.

The report was released to the press almost simultaneously with the "breaking" of the story about renewed Ku Klux Klan activity in Southern California, although the Klan had been known to exist here for at least a year. As Kenny undoubtedly figured, the newspapers "played" the Klan story—but carried only a few

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What Is A Commodity?

By V. Grey

A commodity is something produced to be exchanged. Nearly everything made nowadays comes under that heading. Things are very different today from the pioneer era when people made their own shoes, clothing, and mended the bullets for their long rifles.

There couldn't be much exchange then, because people had to work from sunrise to sunset just to make the things they needed for themselves. Their log cabin was their factory. But it was the most inefficient factory you can imagine. In spite of Herculean labor, they often couldn't produce enough goods for one family (that is, for themselves) to exist.

Today great factories employing thousands of people are busy making just one of the items the pioneers made—socks, for instance, or stockings. Hundreds of thousands of pairs of stockings are made—far more than the owners, or even the workers in that particular factory, can use. The stockings have to be exchanged for other things.

The capitalist who owns the factories and employs the workers who produce the socks, is interested in only one thing about socks. How much he can get for them. How useful they are to people is entirely secondary with him. If it so happens that he profits five cents a pair on cotton socks and only four cents a pair on wool, he will turn his whole factory over to the production of cotton socks. Children's underwear, for several reasons, has yielded a lower profit than coats and dresses in recent years—so children have had to go without underwear. This is because we are living in a commodity system. Goods are produced to be sold—and at a profit. It is the number of purses that counts and not the number of users. If the working people as a whole ran the factories, they would, of course, make underwear for their children and themselves. But then they would no longer be producing commodities, production would then no longer be hamstringing by capitalism.

The capitalist, as we have said, doesn't care whether the commodity is good or bad, so long as he can sell it. But all the same, the commodity has to be of some use, otherwise the people are not going to buy it. Dishes have to be smooth and cleanable, coal has to be hard and burnable, auto tires have to be soft and rideable, bread has to be fresh and eatable.

Two-fold Nature of Value

A commodity is a useful thing and it is at the same time a saleable thing. It has value in use (use-value) and value in exchange (exchange-value). The loaf of bread we described last week is a commodity precisely for these two reasons. It is useful to man. And it is produced to sell or exchange.

Naturally not every useful thing is necessarily a commodity. The air we breathe is quite useful, we would die without it. But it is not produced or monopolized by man. So it is free. On the other hand, oxygen, the purest air for breathing, is distilled out of the air by the labor of man, and therefore it becomes a commodity. It is sold to hospitals for oxygen tents, etc. It is sold to factories for welding and burning purposes. The acetylene flame breathes the oxygen—but not for free.

If we look up and down the world-wide list of commodities—from tooth brushes to tractors—we find every single thing that is sold on the market (except unimproved land—see Marx' Capital, Vol. III) is a product of human labor. Now this seems such a commonplace, such a hum drum sort of discovery, you might say "so what?"

You might say everything contains labor and materials—just like a repair job on your car. That's right. And the "materials" are commodities, too. The wrist pins, the rings, the pistons, etc., are also the product of labor—labor and materials again. But the raw steel they came from originally wasn't worth a dime a pound. And that steel, too, was the product of the labor of thousands of workers, the sum total of tiny bits of their labor concentrated in that little bit of steel.

If a commodity so far as its exchange value is concerned is nothing but an amount of labor, you might say that the labor that produced it should own it. That would be fair and just. But a commodity is produced to be sold. The capitalist hires you to make caviar or Packards—not so you can use them, but so he can sell them.

We shall see why that alters everything when we continue our analysis of the commodity, and its two fold nature of being of value in usefulness and in exchange.

Next Week: Can Use Value Be Measured?

Now on Sale Fourth International

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- From the Arsenal of Marxism
A Documentary History of the Fourth International
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- ☐ I enclose \$..... toward your work.
- ☐ I want a contribution-list to circulate among my friends and fellow-workers, so they can help *The Militant*.

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Baltimore SWP Meeting Recruits New Members

BALTIMORE, Md., Apr. 15 — A group of Militant readers and friends met last night to hear Comrade Ted Barr speak on the "Postwar World and the Tasks of Labor."

The current sustained attacks against the Soviet Union by the American government and press, Comrade Barr explained, reveal their fear that the American workers will realize the superiority of planned economy over monopolistic economy. One Militant reader pointed out how in Japan recently the coal miners went on strike in a Honshu mine, took it over and in a few days increased production 400 per cent.

After a lively discussion period two applications were made to join the Socialist Workers Party.

May Day Born In Labor Struggles

By Ruth Johnson

Sixty years ago, in 1886, May Day was born in the titanic struggle of the American workers for an eight-hour working day. May 1, 1886 had been set aside by union resolutions as the day on which the workers were to lay down their tools and demonstrate for the eight-hour day. In every major city of the period—New York, Chicago, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Milwaukee, Boston, Pittsburgh, Detroit, St. Louis, and even Washington, D. C., workers thronged into the streets.

In every city there were pitched battles as cops assaulted the demonstrators. But it was in Chicago, known as "the most radical city of the time," that class lines were sharpest. There, workers had been locked out at the McCormick-Deering Harvester plant for two months. A lumber strike was in progress. Workers in many unions were led by militant anarchists who saw the fight for the eight-hour day as a part of the bigger struggle against capitalism itself.

CITY-WIDE LOCKOUT

Police attacks upon the Chicago demonstrators were followed by a city-wide lockout on May 2. The next day, May 3, thousands of victimized workers joined the peaceful marchers at the McCormick-Deering plant. Without warning, police fired upon the huge picket line, killing four workers, injuring scores.

A mass meeting was held in Haymarket Square the following day, to protest the police brutality. As the meeting drew to its close, when most of the

crowd of 3,000 had left to escape a downpour, the entire city police force charged in.

Samuel Fielden, who was speaking, protested that the meeting was peaceful. Suddenly a bomb burst in the crowd. Under cover of the explosion, the police opened fire. Four workers and seven cops lay dead when the smoke cleared.

There is no longer any doubt that the bomb was thrown by a provocateur in the pay of the bosses or the cops themselves. The blast was the excuse the bosses had been looking for, to launch a wave of terror against the workers.

FRAME-UP TRIAL

The following day, every prominent labor leader in the city was arrested. Eight anarchist leaders—August Spies, Albert Parsons, Samuel Fielden, Michael Schwab, Louis Lingg, Oscar Neebe, George Engel and Adolph Fisher, were indicted for the murder of the first policeman to die.

No evidence was ever presented to connect any of the men with the bomb. Yet seven were sentenced to be hanged; Oscar Neebe, to 15 years in prison. Shortly before the execution date, the sentences of Fielden and Schwab were commuted to life imprisonment. Lingg, refusing to let the capitalists take his life, committed suicide in his cell.

Despite the protests of labor throughout the world, Spies, Parsons, Fisher and Engel were hanged on November 11, 1887.

But the Haymarket martyrs were not forgotten. May Day became a symbol of the workers' struggle. The second (Socialist) International at its first Congress in 1890, proclaimed it a day of international solidarity.

DEFIANT CHALLENGE

And through the years, in every battle of the working people against their oppressors, the last words of August Spies have renewed their defiant challenge to the capitalist class:

"The time will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today."

Haymarket Demonstration Scene



Scene of the police assault on the workers' demonstration in Haymarket Square, Chicago, on May 4, 1886, during the struggle for the 8-hour day.

Stalinists And May Day

After five years of desecrating the traditions of International May Day by supporting Wall Street's imperialist war and calling on labor to work harder than ever for the bosses on May Day, the Communist (Stalinist) Party has announced 1946 May Day parades and mass meetings in a number of American big cities.

THEIR "UNITY"

These are being called "United May Day" celebrations by the Stalinist leaders. But only those organizations are being permitted to participate which agree to go down the line 100 per cent with the current Stalinist line.

committees which are organizing the parades and meetings, make as a condition of participation by any group that it agree to carry only banners and slogans approved by the "arrangements" committees.

STALINIST SLOGANS

This means that labor organizations can join the Stalinist "United May Day" only if they support such slogans as "Big Three Unity," "Make the United Nations work" and "Fulfill the Teheran and Yalta agreements."

Thus, the Stalinists continue to besmirch the May Day of international working class struggle against the capitalists and imperialists by calling for support of these imperialist and their diplomatic agencies. They

further demand that the secret agreements made between Anglo-American imperialism and the Kremlin to dismember Germany, divide the world into "spheres of influence," and suppress socialist revolutions, be carried out.

DETROIT

May Day Social

Saturday, May 4

From 9 O'clock On

Refreshments

Dancing - Orchestra
6108 Linwood Ave.

Army Exonerates Slain Negro Vet Of 'Misconduct'

(Continued from Page 1)

Socialist Workers Party has organized numerous protest rallies in eastern cities. A growing protest movement has forced the facts of the case out into the open and led to exoneration of the Ferguson brothers of the frame-up charges against them.

Early in March the navy exonerated the wounded brother Joseph of "misconduct" charges and stated that "finding himself in a very difficult position he conducted himself in a manner which in no way can be construed as misconduct."

As a result of this decision and mass pressure, the Nassau County court was compelled to reverse its original sentence against Richard, 3rd Army combat veteran, and repay a \$100 fine extorted from him at a "kangaroo" trial the morning after the murders.

The next step in this notorious case is to indict the killer-cop Romeika for murder and remove from office the whole corrupt gang of office holders in Nassau County who attempted to frame up the victims, whitewash the murderer and terrorize the Negro people in Freeport, into silence.

The New York Local of the Socialist Workers Party has launched a campaign to secure 50,000 signatures on a petition demanding that the State Commission Against Discrimination (SCAD) establish a broad public committee of representatives from trade unions, Negro organizations and veterans' groups to probe the notorious Jim-Crow conditions in Nassau County and hold open public hearings to gather evidence and issue a public report on its findings.

This petition drive is designed to force the SCAD to take action. The SCAD since its establishment has done little to protect the victims of racial discrimination in New York State. Only mass protest and pressure can compel this agency, called a "little FEPC," to initiate a full public investigation of the facts and background of the case.

The NEGRO STRUGGLE

"Labor with a white skin cannot emancipate itself; where labor with a black skin is branded."
—KARL MARX

by CHARLES JACKSON

"On Whitman Avenue—U. S. A."

One of the most moving and deep-reaching dramatic presentations to hit the legitimate stage in recent years is "On Whitman Avenue" by Maxine Wood. You find here a cutting exposure of the hypocrisy of social discrimination against the family of a Negro veteran.

The fat is first thrown into the fire when a young, free-thinking and uninhibited white student rents the upstairs flat in her parents' home to a needy but worthy Negro family. The neighborhood has been heretofore lily-white, by virtue—or vice—of the real estate companies that have their restrictive clause covenants.

The community is thrown into an uproar. A meeting is called in the home of the students' parents. The Klan-minded leader exhorts them in a most reactionary plea but the young student, her father and one sympathetic neighbor balk. In a mock democratic gesture, the Negro veteran who has rented the upstairs is called in.

After he blasts down their reactionary theories in light of what he has learned through experience in the foxholes together with white soldiers, he is still given the thumbs-down sign to the tune of a collection, taken up to help him defray the expenses of moving out of the white neighborhood.

The acting done by Canada Lee here is definitely moving. It is obvious that his cause in this narrow sense of defeating social prejudice in this small neighborhood is hopeless. His rebellion is as one tugging at an inevitably strangling noose.

The neighborhood gathering, hamstrung by social pressure, finally gives him and his family one month to get out.

The play shows clearly how even the 11-year old son who, at first had played amicably with the colored boy of the family, finally succumbs to the pressure of the social forces and resorts to the usual derogatory epithets and the threat of physical violence. The real estate interests who

stand to lose the most if the Negroes are not kept in their black-belt ghettos, are the most vociferous elements instigating even vigilante terrorism in order to force the "invading" Negro family to move out of the "white" neighborhood of Whitman Avenue.

Undaunted, the "world-shaking" daughter rallies support for her proteges among her more courageous neighbors, intent on securing their rights to remain. Her sympathetic, though indecisive father stands by her, while her mother, unnerved by the social pressure of present-day segregationist society, exposes her daughter's plans. She proceeds to oust her "unwelcome" tenants.

The Negro veteran's wife, despairing of finding a home for her unborn child and weary of packing and moving, faints on the doorstep. Her guilty-minded landlady, in a fit of remorse, runs to her aid. Whereupon the veteran's wife recoils, violently crying out: "I don't want our child born into this world of hypocrisy and injustice."

Hurried and impatient to leave the scene of such unpleasantness, her husband impatiently snaps at "Gramps." "Gramps," patient and wise with the years, philosophizes: "Always be in a hurry—except when you are going backwards."

Unwilling to stand by hopelessly, the young girl student leaves home. Her father, advising her to continue her studies, admonishes her to finish the things HE wanted to do. Stunned by his daughter's departure, he wanders aimlessly around. His wife is now a complete alien to him in the matter of principles.

As the play ends the mother holds the key to the house she tried so hard in her reactionary way to save. She has saved just that, for it is no longer a home. It is an empty shell—a house.

Celebrate This May Day With The Socialist Workers Party! Protest Against Wall Street's War Plans!

NEW YORK

Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.

Speakers:

W. F. WARDE W. S. FARRELL
D. WEISS GLORIA WALL
EDWARD J. FERGUSON

CHORUS — DRAMA — MUSIC

HOTEL DIPLOMAT

108 W. 43rd St.

AKRON

Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.

Speakers:

MILTON GENÉCIN
MARY CLARK

MILITANT CLUB

406 Everett Bldg., 39 E. Market

ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM

Wed., May 1, 8:15 p.m.

Militant Labor Forum
S. E. Corner, Front & Hamilton Sts.
Allentown

BOSTON

Friday, May 3, 8 p.m.

Speaker:

MAX GELDMAN

Workers Educational Center
30 Stuart St.

BUFFALO

Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.

Main Speaker:

V. R. DUNNE

MILITANT FORUM

629 Main St. 2nd floor
JOINT AUSPICES: Buffalo and
Lackawanna Branches, SWP

The Militant invites all its friends and readers to observe May Day, the international workers' holiday, by attending the meeting of the Socialist Workers Party in their city.

If you want to celebrate this May Day in its true spirit of workers' solidarity and struggle for peace and socialism, come and participate in the meetings listed below.

CLEVELAND

MEETING AND SOCIAL

Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.

Speakers:

BILL GRAY

PECKS HALL

1446 E. 82 St. (Off Wade Pk.)

DETROIT

Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.

Speakers:

FARRELL DOBBS,
'Militant' Editor

Chairman:

CHARLES JACKSON,
'Militant' columnist

Socialist Workers Party
6108 Linwood Ave.

FLINT, MICH.

Sunday, May 5, 8 p.m.

Speakers:

JACK ROCKWELL
SOL DOLLINGER

YWCA

First St. & Harrison Room 213

PHILADELPHIA

Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.

Speakers:

ART PREIS,
'Militant' Associate Editor
JACK SPILLER,
Trotskyst Youth

MILITANT LABOR FORUM
1303 W. Girard Ave.

PITTSBURGH

Sunday, April 28, 8 p.m.

Speakers:

ELOISE GORDON
BILL CARLOY

MILITANT READING ROOM
5905 Penn Ave.

PORTLAND, Or.

Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.

Brief Talk by

M. HESSER, SWP organizer
SWP HEADQUARTERS
134 S. W. Washington 3rd floor

NEWARK-JERSEY CITY

Saturday, May 4, 8 p.m.
CELEBRATION AND SOCIAL

Speaker:

WILLIAM F. WARDE
Progressive Workers School
423 Springfield Ave.

NEW HAVEN

Sunday, May 5, 2 p.m.
MEETING AND BANQUET

Speaker:

L. MORRIS, SWP Organizer
Workmen's Circle Center
72 Legion Ave.

TOLEDO

Tuesday, April 30, 8 p.m.

Speaker:

GENORA DOLLINGER
Socialist Workers Party
213 Michigan St.

LOS ANGELES

Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.

Speakers:

MURRY WEISS
C. CHARLES

Recitation: 'Voices of Revolt'

EMBASSY AUDITORIUM

843 South Grand Ave. North Hall

Auspices: Socialist Workers Party
and Socialist Youth Club

SAN DIEGO

Friday, May 3, 8 p.m.

Speaker:

A. BURKE

1142 Union St. 2nd floor

SAN FRANCISCO

Sunday, May 5, 8 p.m.

Speakers:

B. WISE HENRY STERN
B. R. CORMAN

FOOD — SINGING — DANCING

305 Grant Ave. 4th floor

Admission free

SEATTLE

Wed., May 1, 7:30 p.m.

Speakers:

W. JONES
FRANCES ROBERTS
DAN ROBERTS

SWP HEADQUARTERS

1919½ Second Ave.

CHICAGO

Saturday, May 4, 8 p.m.

Speakers:

FARRELL DOBBS
CHARLES JACKSON

Dancing — Chorus — Refreshments

Socialist Workers Party

777 W. Adams St.

ST. LOUIS

Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.

Speaker:

MIKE BARTELL

SWP HEADQUARTERS

1023 N. Grand Blvd. Room 312

TACOMA

Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.

DISCUSSION — REFRESHMENTS

ODD FELLOWS TEMPLE

6th and Fawcett Admission free

TWIN CITIES

Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.

Speaker:

GRACE CARLSON

MINNEAPOLIS SWP

10 South 4th Street

YOUNGSTOWN

Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.

Speakers:

H. LAMONT

G. L. WEISSMAN

Militant Labor Forum

225 North Phelps Street

Diary Of A Steelworker By T. Kovalesky

We sprawled in the shanty. Slim leaned his back limply against the switch boxes. Jimmy half sat, half lay on one end of the bench. Reuben and I sat heavily side by side on the other end, our heads bent, and our elbows on our knees.

Old Steve walked in carrying a milk bottle filled with water from the drinking fountain behind the furnace. "Phew," he snorted, stopping in the doorway, "this place stinks!"

Nobody moved. Nobody said anything. We slouched there, wetting the walls and rough wooden benches with our steaming sweat. Steve shrugged his shoulders and sat down.

I turned my head sluggishly and looked at the gang. We were filthy and ragged. In everyone's clay-smeared clothing were holes cut by flying particles of molten iron and slag. Pants were burnt and frayed, hanging in clotted fringe over the heavy, worn shoes. Jimmy was wearing two pairs of pants so that the holes in one pair might be covered by the cloth of the other and give his body the protection that he could not get from either pair by itself.

A Sorry-Looking Gang

We were a sorry-looking gang, and we felt as bad as we looked. The first warm weather had come down and smothered us, hitting much harder than July or August would, because then we'd have gotten used to it, at least a little. We sprawled there, sweating and exhausted.

Far, far away in another world, away from the blast furnaces and their filth of sweat and flue dust, clay and graphite, coke and pig-iron, there were people on the streets. It was Easter Sunday, and the Easter Parade of fashion

sauntered and minced up and down the boulevard.

The press would tell us next day, if we cared to know, about the mustard colored spring ensemble of Mrs. J. Parkes Mattison. Some morose reporter would describe the "Impish Easter Bonnet" worn "pertly" by Miss Gloria Caven-dish. There would be pictures of urbane gentlemen in silk toppers, cutaway coats, and striped trousers (not pants, trousers!).

Far, far away from the hissing, hellish furnaces, away from the roar of the blast and the rumbling "slips," there were free men and women sauntering along in tweeds and gabardines, in pastel shades and stern "he-man colors." There were people floating leisurely down broad avenues in gleaming new cars.

I thought of Mary's new coat that we couldn't particularly afford. She had bought it in some bargain basement or other, half holding back because of the money. But she had wanted one so badly "for Easter," that I had made her get it. "It's swell, honey," I told her when she first tried it on at home. "You look just like the kid I married forty years ago."

Her Hands Were Red and Worn

"Forty years!" she snorted, making that funny little scowl, just like she had always done when I teased her, even as kids before we were married. I saw her hands, worn and red at the end of the new sleeves. . . .

"Pretty as a picture," I said, as if I hadn't noticed her hands, or the lines in her face. . . .

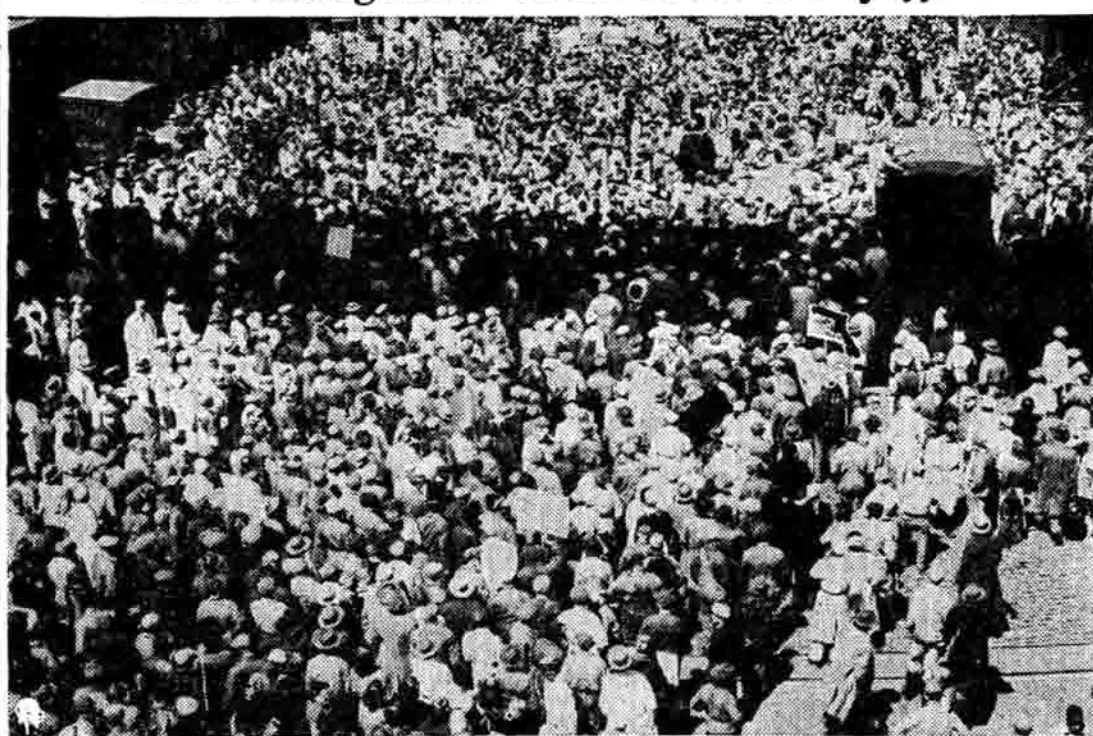
Kramer came into the shanty. "We got to cast in three hours," he said, a little hesitantly, because he could see how tired we were.

"Damn the cast," Jimmy muttered, but he got up. Slim stirred, and I rose heavily to my feet, a few flakes of dried clay falling from my clothes to the floor.

We sighed and went out to make the cleanup.

Will Stalinist 'One Big Union' Conference Promote Genuine Unity Of Maritime Unions?

CIO Packinghouse Union Protests Layoffs



Protesting the layoff of 5,000 packinghouse workers, more than 15,000 CIO United Packinghouse Workers demonstrated last week outside the Swift & Company meat packing plant in Chicago. After the demonstration, union leaders left to confer in Washington with Secretary of Agriculture Anderson.

By Art Sharon

Six CIO maritime unions and one unaffiliated organization, the Pacific Coast Marine Firemen, will meet on May 6 in San Francisco at a national convention called for the claimed purpose of setting up a single national maritime organization. The initiators and prime movers of the convention are the Stalinist leaders of the CIO unions.

While the maritime workers earnestly and correctly desire unity for struggle against the employers, the Stalinist move is not directed toward that end, regardless of what form the proposed new organization takes. The Stalinists are motivated primarily by their desire to strengthen their stranglehold over the unions now under their domination and to consolidate their forces for a jurisdictional struggle against rival AFL unions.

A PROVOCATION

This was clearly shown by the Stalinist failure to issue invitations to the strong AFL segment of the maritime industry, including the Seafarers International Union; International Longshoremen's Association; and Masters, Mates and Pilots. Instead, the CIO National Maritime Union leaders circulated a leaflet announcing that "rank and file members" of the various AFL unions would participate as individuals in the San Francisco conference. This was an indirect suggestion to AFL members to leave their present unions and join the CIO—in short, an announcement of jurisdictional raiding and a provocation to jurisdictional warfare.

Only upon the insistence of the independent Marine Firemen, did the organizers of the San Francisco conference finally send an invitation—to the Seafarers Union of the Pacific, one section of the Seafarers International Union. This invitation was rejected by the SUP membership.

The San Francisco "One Big Union" convention is regarded by the AFL unions as a hostile move directed against them. They, in turn, are talking of organizing an AFL maritime council for protection and mutual aid against any CIO invasion of their jurisdiction. Thus, instead

of cementing unity, the Stalinist maneuvers are generating a still greater division among the maritime unions. Moreover, the Stalinist moves have strengthened the hand of the elements within the AFL unions who welcome a jurisdictional fight as an opportunity to expand at the expense of the CIO.

CRITICAL PERIOD

The San Francisco convention will meet at a critical period, when all maritime unions are either in negotiations or face negotiations with the ship operators. It has become increasingly evident that the operators with the aid of their stooges in Washington are seeking to utilize their present favorable position to strike blows at the maritime unions.

Paramount in the minds of maritime workers, regardless of affiliation, is the need for some kind of joint action against the ship operators. The San Francisco conference by intensifying the antagonisms between the CIO and AFL unions will serve to weaken the workers in the impending struggles.

Under the given circumstances and in view of the long history of open warfare between the contending leaderships, the only honest and realistic approach to unity of the maritime workers is agreed-upon joint actions. These should be conducted, regardless of affiliations, in order to present a solid class front against the employers who are making common cause against all unions.

WHAT IS NEEDED

Such joint action is the indicated elementary step in any program looking toward eventual and genuine unification of the waterfront unions. The Marine Firemen have advanced such proposals, directed to both the CIO and AFL unions, as a means for establishing the only sound basis for eventual complete unity. However, both the Stalinists and the AFL leaders have brushed these sound proposals aside and are going ahead with their preparations for jurisdictional hostilities.

House Demolishes OPA Control; Price-Gougers Get Green Light

(Continued from Page 1) strictions, except for rent controls.

Its major amendment is designed to safeguard and boost profits on an unprecedented scale. This would provide for price ceilings high enough to guarantee costs and a "reasonable profit" on every single item handled, from the manufacturer all the way to the retailer. The profiteers want not only huge over-all profits—they want assurances of profit on every single nut, bolt and tooth-pick produced.

Further, the House amend-

ments include provisions to give "industry advisory committees" composed of corporation representatives the authority to determine when price controls shall be removed altogether from any commodities. Thus, the price-gougers themselves would have direct power to "regulate" prices and scuttle even the pretence of price control.

Other amendments would eliminate all government subsidies to food producers by the end of this year. The huge subsidies which have been fattening the meat barons would be halted by June 30. Instead, this indirect cost on the consuming public will be collected directly through price increases.

What the House amendments mean to the Wall Street plutocrats is indicated by the response of the stock market, reported in such headlines as "House Vote On OPA Sends Stocks Up" (N. Y. Times, April 18). The House Committee for the Protection of the Consumer was constrained to charge that those who voted for these amendments, including "the monstrous guaranteed profits amendments," would "add billions to the cost of living" and "are pawing the people's future for the favor of profiteers."

Even Economic Stabilizer Chester Bowles, who has been handing the corporations virtually everything they have been asking by way of legal price boosts, was compelled to publicly brand the unrestrained inflationary actions of the House as "a long step toward starting us on a joyride to disaster."

Bowles declared over the radio on April 17 that the American people face "a total additional burden to our collective family budgets of billions upon billions of dollars. The share of the average family would amount to many hundreds of dollars during the coming year."

As an agency of the capitalist government committed to protecting profits above all, the so-called "price control" agencies like OPA have been able to do no more than toss a bucket of water on the raging inflationary conflagration. Now even this bucket is being kicked out of their hands.

Only the decisive independent mass action of the workers and consumers, through the struggle for a rising scale of wages to meet price increases and through committees to directly control and regulate the distribution of essential goods, ferret out black marketeers and expose the profiteers, can be relied upon to place any real obstacles before the advancing juggernaut of inflation.

PACKERS CREATE SHORTAGES TO FORCE HIGH MEAT PRICES

(Continued from Page 1) to pay now through black market channels."

George R. Dressler, executive secretary of the National Association of Retail Meat Dealers, said: "The consumers . . . will get meat, in spite of any restrictions that are now in force, or that can ever be written. Why not leave them get it legitimately? A free and competitive market would not be any higher than the black market of today."

In short, the meat barons offer the American consumers the alternative of getting meat either at extortionate black market prices or at equally extortionate "legitimate" prices.

The meat packers have been making a big howl about the "black market" and piously voicing indignation about its growth. They seek thereby to frighten the consumers into paying the equivalent of black market prices to the "legitimate" meat trust.

Actually, the black market accounts for only a small proportion of the meat supply as yet. Black market operators, using primitive methods, without adequate storage facilities, with limited means of haulage, etc., cannot begin to handle the enormous quantities of meat processed by the big mass-production meat packing establishments.

Meyer Stern, Eastern director of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers, in demanding a federal grand jury investigation of New York City wholesale meat houses, declared that the major packers are "conspiring with the black market" by reducing their output deliberately. At the same time they are buying profit-making by-products from "fly-by-night, unwholesome, black market slaughterhouses."

A coast to coast OPA survey, released last week, reveals that the whole meat industry is nothing but a huge black market, with ceiling prices violated with impunity. The survey was made in the week of February 26, before the "shortage" had become so extensive. In eleven major cities, including New York and Chicago, from 70 to 91 per cent of all meat retailers were charging over-ceiling prices of from 20 to 30 per cent. They are forced to these practices in part by the illegal exactions of the wholesalers and big packers.

Mine Strikers Fight To Halt Vile Conditions

(Continued from Page 1)

between the coal barons and the company doctors, these doctors are forced to testify that a mine worker's injury is "about 20 per cent of what it actually is," one UMW spokesman related. If a mangled worker's bones do not heal quickly enough, "they say he had syphilis in his blood . . . they say anything."

Company doctors' fees are twice as high as the \$2 a month average medical check-off, with no better service. Childbirth attendance costs an additional \$30 or more. In many areas an additional \$5 is tacked on the bill if the child born is a girl. For most of the injured the "chief medical benefits from the doctors' fees was a big red pill and an aspirin tablet."

On top of a wide list of ruthless extortions for medical services, in many cases miners are even compelled to pay the company for making deductions for these services from their paychecks. Hospitals are jammed with patients and the injured are treated under "disgracefully insanitary" conditions.

So ruthless are the profiteering coal barons, that they pursue their victims right into their graves. The Pocahontas Fuel Corporation, for example, which has 12 operations in District 29 employing 7,000 men, also runs a very profitable funeral home as a side line. Thus, the more victims there are in this area, the more profits for the undertaking establishment. Bodies of miners killed in accidents are rushed off to this funeral home without the consent or notification of their survivors. After embalming the body without consent, they then notify the family.

The widow of a dead miner, entitled to \$500 insurance, has to "put up a struggle" for any part of this money. The funeral home, in league with the insurance company, shows the widow the "nice shroud . . . ambulance service and all that stuff," and "manages to get the \$500 in some way," regardless of what the actual burial costs are.

"In all of my existence of 64 years, I have never run into anything so vicious as the company doctors, the hospital setup and the insurance . . . It has Al Capone skinned a city block," said E. L. Baker, member of the union committee which investigated these vicious practices.

Notes Of A Seaman By Art Sharon

I have received a number of queries on the coming Stalinist-sponsored May 6 conference for "One Big Union" in the maritime industry.

The Militant will from time to time report all news on this movement to bring all maritime unions into one organization, but a few remarks are in order here on the background to the May 6 Conference.

At present there are seven maritime unions in the American Merchant Marine. Closely allied with them are several other waterfront organizations, principally the longshoremen's organizations. To the men who sail the ships and work on the docks there is not much argument on the advantage of a common organization.

From time to time, the various maritime unions joined together in close unity of action if not in common organization. The best example was the organization known as the Maritime Federation of the Pacific organized after the great maritime strike on the west coast in 1934. The MFP was born in the heat of desperate struggle against a powerful alliance of shipowners and government. The unity of action of all the west coast maritime workers gave them their common victory over the shipowners at that time.

Maritime Federation Foundered

But to the great disappointment of the workers on the west coast waterfront, the Maritime Federation foundered and sunk. The responsibility for its finish rests upon the Stalinist Communist Party. The Stalinists with their thoroughly irresponsible and reckless drive to mechanically capture and control the Federation succeeded in driving outside, the Seafarers Union of the Pacific, one of the major organizations. Shortly afterward the Stalinists finding that they no longer needed the Federation quietly dissolved it.

The Stalinists then advanced the newly organized National Maritime Union as the vehicle for "unity" on the waterfront. The Independent Firemen's Union and the CIO Marine Cooks and Stewards were invited to join the

NMU. The NMU, which was the principal maritime union on the east coast but had no west coast ships, opened up elaborate halls in the principal west coast ports. This was an obvious preparation for unity via the Stalinist route. But despite the great amount of effort expended to bring the Cooks and Firemen into the NMU there was enough opposition inside these organizations to prevent their being taken over by the NMU.

These drives by the Stalinist Party to capture and control the maritime unions, succeeded in bringing turmoil and sharp inter-union conflict on the west coast waterfront. Only the war prevented open jurisdictional warfare beyond the few skirmishes already fought between the Stalinist-dominated unions and the SUP. Since the war's end there has been a renewal of the old conflict.

Action Aided Ryan

When a rank and file movement recently defied Joe Ryan, dictator of the AFL International Longshoremen's Association, on one of his sell-outs, it looked very much like the final payoff for Ryan on the east coast. This movement collapsed and Ryan still remains on top inside the ILA. It is a common saying on the New York waterfront that Joe Ryan has the Communist (Stalinist) Party to thank for his victory.

When the rank and file defied Ryan and went on strike against his proposed contract, the Stalinist-led NMU jumped into the strike. Bridges flew in from the west coast and the Stalinist ballyhoo machine succeeded in converting the rank and file revolt into a jurisdictional dispute. Overnight the prospects of the ILA rank and file faded before the onslaught of Stalinist strategy. Ryan called for help against a CIO invasion. The AFL unions rallied to his defense. In vain did the Stalinists later protest that they wanted the longshoremen to stay in the AFL-ILA; they had already succeeded in finishing off a very promising rank and file movement inside the ILA.

Nearly a decade has passed of hostile conflicts between the Stalinist-led unions and the SUP-SIU. Now the Stalinists come forth with a proposal for the formation of "One Big Union." And although such a national organization would be an impossibility without the inclusion of the SIU-SUP, the original call for the formation of the "One Big Union" ignored that important organization.

Invitation Finally Extended

Later, upon the demand of the independent Firemen, an invitation was extended to the SIU-SUP. At the same time the organ of the NMU openly called the leaders of the SIU-SUP "finks" and asked the rank and file of that organization to join the unity move.

This clearly stamps the move as a hostile act aimed against the SUP-SIU. The leaders of the latter organization responded in kind and announced the formation of an AFL Maritime Council in preparation for jurisdictional war. This in brief is the background to the coming May 6 conference in San Francisco. Knowledge of what has gone before is indispensable to understand what can be expected of this present development.

Westinghouse Strikers Resist Legal Move To Halt Picketing

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

MEDIA, Pa., Apr. 16 — Westinghouse Electric Corporation representatives today completed their testimony before a hearing at the Media County Court House on the company's demand for an injunction to halt picketing at its strike-bound Lester Plant, one of the largest in the Philadelphia area.

This is one of the latest moves in the international electrical trust's union-busting drive against the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers which is leading the bitter 92-day old strike of 75,000 Westinghouse workers.

Lester Plant manager Morgan pleaded for issuance of the injunction so that supervisory employees, whom the company is trying to use to break the picket-line, might enter the plant to take care of the "engineering" aspects of future production. The union attorney brought out the fact that this "engineering work" had been started a year and a half ago.

NO CONCERN FOR WORKERS

Morgan bemoaned the loss to the company because it has to house its salaried employees in temporary offices in Philadelphia. He showed no concern over the 75,000 workers who have been forced to remain on strike because Westinghouse refuses to grant an 18½-cent an hour wage increase, such as was granted by General Electric and the General Motors Electrical Division. Nor did he mention his corporation's refusal to negotiate in good faith.

It is likely, in view of past performances of several other courts in this state, that the anti-union company will be given the injunction it seeks to break the strike.

But the workers at Lester are expressing determination that no injunction or police terrorism is going to break their picket line and strike solidarity.

SAN DIEGO

Books By Pioneer Publishers Are Now Carried At 'Ye Olde Book Shop' 900 Broadway (cor. 9th St.)

Cleveland Strike At Fisher Body In Sixth Month

By David Lands

(Special To The Militant)

CLEVELAND, O., Apr. 20—Tomorrow, April 21, will begin the sixth month that CIO United Auto Workers Local 45 has been on strike at the Fisher Body plant in Cleveland.

When the national GM strike was settled, Local 45 voted to remain out until the corporation agrees to eliminate the piece-work system. At this key fabrication plant, company profits have soared year by year under a piece-work plan that chains the workers to a murderous speed-up. This system has also made it possible for the corporation to find a thousand ways of swindling production workers out of part of their earnings.

Workers here know that victory on this demand will not only make a considerable dent in corporation profits, but will be an important step toward complete elimination of the bitterly hated incentive systems which still remain in some GM shops. In addition, victory would put Local 45 in a better position to protect its members on other questions as well.

The corporation has so far brazenly refused to budge. While deceitfully claiming that workers "prefer" piece-work, it has rejected even a union proposal to return to work under existing piece-work conditions providing that the entire question be put to a secret vote of the workers after the "prewar level of production" has been reached in the plant.

The magnificent battle being waged by Local 45 has won moral and material support from every section of organized labor in the Cleveland region as well as the UAW International.

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For The Militant Saturday, May 11
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